

# Class War

## Internationalist News and Analysis

Volume 1 Number 5 Summer 2013, Solidarity Donation \$2.00-\$4.00

### No More Trayvon Martins: For Revolutionary Integrationism! For Labor, Black & Brown Self-Defense Guards!

Ghandian demonstrations leave the “Stand your Ground” laws and police “Stop and Frisk” policies unchallenged and intact. Middle class leftists in fact are not Trayvon Martin, nor will they be tomorrow’s Trayvon Martin. Trayvon Martin was Emmett Till, he was Clifford Glover, he was Larry Blaylock, he was Jerold Hall, he was Oscar Grant. The real fury of the millions who can be victimized tomorrow or at any moment must be directed at the destruction of these laws that empower the Zimmermans.



Sunday evening in Times Square after the verdict

You will get nowhere appealing to Obama and Holder who do not represent a post racial America but instead represent a political status quo listening to the prescriptions of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Not only has this administration made no move against these laws but they plan to put 40,000 armed Zimmermans on the payroll on the southern border of the US where many funerals in mistaken identity cases of non-white persons are to be expected. We must smash all “Stop and Frisk” and “Stand Your Ground” laws and the way to do this is by organizing multi-racial labor and community tribunals and self defense guards for the safety of the communities of the oppressed. We believe the trade union movement should be won to making the masses’ righteous indignation their own project.



### EGYPTIAN CLASS COMBAT DEEPENS!

#### On to the Mass Political Strike! Forward to Workers Councils!

In a photo syndicated by Associated Press, workers held aloft bumper stickers that read “Bye-Bye Mursi” in Arabic and “Game Over” in English. For Mursi himself, and perhaps also for the clique of Badei, the Muslim Brotherhood’s “General Guide,” now (7/12) once again said to be under arrest, the game that began last year with the Army/Muslim Brotherhood constitution deal, the deal of frustrating the masses and carrying on for Washington’s approval, is over. The masses put a stop to this regime. Leftists who are fixated on BBC reports and subsequent talking heads’ buzz of a military coup don’t realize who has been in power continuously but uninterrupted since 1952. And they do not realize that the Army acted to remove Mursi by force after he had already been de facto removed by the resignations of his cabinet ministers.

This distinction between coup d’etat myth and mass action reality matters because some on the left buy the story that a “democracy” has been suppressed. Thus they call for a Constituent Assembly, and think that would be a revolutionary advance. Or, variously, they see a big defeat for the masses in the “military coup,” corresponding to the defeats of last summer, and defense of democracy becomes the justification for their call. This is good logic but a false reading of the present

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### For Permanent Revolution in Syria!

*The following is a short excerpt from our theoretical journal Class Warrior #2.*

#### IMPERIALISM, THE GLOBAL CRISIS, AND THE SYRIAN REVOLUTION

The global capitalist crisis that has built up since 2007 can only be resolved in two ways. Either the rivalry between the two imperialist blocs succeeds in resolving the crisis by means of depression and war, or the international working class mobilizes to defeat imperialism and bring about a socialist revolution. The imperialists are engaged in a struggle between the entrenched and declining powers bloc led by US imperialism and the emergent Chinese/Russian imperialist bloc, over the resources, strategic assets and the super-profits to be extracted from the proletarianized masses and their homelands. The global south has become the battleground between these rival blocs at the expense of the semi-colonial nations and the working masses. The semi-colonial revolution is the



flashpoint for the current international crisis of capitalism, where the imperialist forces and their national agents are confronted by popular resistance. The Arab Revolution that began in 2011 is an expression of the beginnings of a global challenge to the rule of capital by the world’s workers who refuse to pay for the imperialist crisis and which has opened the road to permanent revolution. The revolutionary war in Syria has been the vanguard of the Arab Revolution and the global revolution for more than two years. The initial form that

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**EDITORIAL: The Legal Environment**

Capitalism is still in a world crisis and fat cats don't want you to say so. We're writing in the season of the big lie, when it is revealed that the National Security state in the post-911 era treats everyone in the U.S. and particularly anyone we communicate with overseas as an Ethel or Julius Rosenberg. The one-two party mouthpieces, Boehner and Feinstein, tell us that Snowden, the man who revealed the extent of the snooping (ALL our calls! ALL our e-mails!) "is a traitor." We are now expected to believe that our privacy is protected by the judicial independence of a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court that has only turned down one wiretap request in its eleven year history. No defense attorneys can appear or appeal in that court! Michael Bloomberg, himself the champion of nanny state snooping in N.Y. City, says he believes there really won't be anything anyone can do about the disappearance of privacy. Of course he does. But he's wrong.

But Rosenbergs?, you ask, not sure what we mean. Well consider: the federal political agenda of the U.S. for at least the last 3 years and even more in the state houses has been determined by the Tea Party phenomenon and the power behind it, the corporatists of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC, hereafter.) The tax revenues are not filling the trough these grafters feed from quite the way they used to, what with so many actually unemployed. So of course to reserve ever more of 'the take' for their crowd they put over the austerity program, the 'sequester.' Those who object to the true needlessness of this program are enemies under surveillance in this period where Mitch McConnell can denounce the membership of the teachers union as "terrorists." This even though it has been shown that the Rheinhardt-Rogoff economic model used by both the Administration and its supposed opponents turns out to have a flaw in its spreadsheet big enough to sail the Nimitz through. You weren't supposed to notice that either.

The ALEC bourgeois formation has taken the bet that the U.S. masses are so TV mesmerized that they can introduce fascism by degrees and by stealth, by bogus sloganeering for results they can never deliver and on the cheap, without mass terror and the usual army of uniformed and armed party goons. They already exercise a program of behavior modification over lawmaking bodies with the discipline of the veto and the goad of their bribes. In this political setting the state soon gives these people anything they want

in return for campaign "contributions," and no secret about anyone is safe from them. This makes you a Rosenberg if you bring a product liability suit or join a class action, in the sense that you can expect what had always been routinely (before the early '50s, exceptionally,) considered illegal snooping on your attorney's communications with you. Needless to say this will go for political trials as well, assuming the state doesn't just knock you off preemptively with Obama's blessing. No objectivism and no reformist sectoralist project will stop this cancer.

At the same time this ALEC strategy has vulnerabilities. Exposure causes big brand names to disassociate publicly. The big money knows they really only have the conscious support of the 22% who habitually poll in favor of racism, misogyny and all their wars. Exposure of the snooperstate will likely kill the Atlantic Free Trade Agreement, not because the Senate isn't sufficiently bribed but because the E.U. parliamentarians and German lawmakers particularly are deeply chagrined over the espionage directed at them, and are howling that the U.S. is a state you can no longer trust. The free marketeer true believers had banked on this treaty, together with their ill-conceived austerity, to back capitalism out of its world crisis.

In this atmosphere a movement against and exposing Obama's plan to deliver the ALEC's wet dream, the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (sometimes styled Act, as if its *a fatto compli*), by "fast track" personal negotiation later this year, can be the chisel point behind which revolutionaries can deliver tremendous forces of working class and oppressed peoples' outrage, mobilized by a system of partial demands, democratic demands and transitional demands. Take a good look at the continuing Arab Spring, the struggle in Turkey and the masses in action in Brazil and Chile too. This is not last year's "Occupy" styling" mean people suck" while police attack or hanging on every word of a reformist "Mike Check." If you look without presupposition at this year's immigrant youth rebellions from the farms of South Africa to the slums of Sweden and the changes that followed and continue, you can reasonably believe that you can do more than make the exploiters fret. You can fight to put an end to the snooper-super state. You can join the Communist Workers Group and make the socialist revolution it will take to save the planet your true calling, a life of fulfillment.

MSNBC is ostensibly a journalistic enterprise. Within journalism the shows

hosted by Rachel Maddow and Ed Schultz would be considered commentary features. You can forget these assumptions now. Before the Snowden revelations you would have expected some coverage sympathetic to the cause of the Associated Press reporters who were suing the Justice Department for eavesdropping on them to illegally obtain the reporters' confidential sources. But now in the Snowden era the Maddow/Schultz bunch are regime shilling night and day and they call for Snowden's head and say he has betrayed "us" to the terrorists. They always were selling class collaboration, but this is a new low even for them. Actual leftists should cut them loose.

The flipside of government mewling about how their background screening didn't eliminate Snowden from access to high security state secrets is the hiring of many thousands of 'politically reliable' creeps by the Homeland Security Administration (HSA) to spy and report on hometown 'weirdos'. With all the spin and hearings and daily TV damage control appearances by General Alexander, none of the talking heads have recalled that the program was criticized for its libel possibilities and how it would make a paying profession out of personal vendettas. And of course with the ALEC in the saddle, Homeland Security becomes a dirty tricks service targeting labor. Humanists see the HSA as the "escape from freedom." Those who are not "post-political" will fight to abolish it!

**EDITORIAL: THE CLIMATE CHANGES**

With the the general level of militancy of the masses internationally rising faster than the thermometer, we have to comment on the Obama Climate Change address that wasn't. Oh he gave it alright, mopping his brow. But it wasn't memorable or quotable or any signal that the greatest industrial-imperial power will squarely face the climate change challenge. Obama gave a sideways acknowledgement that human species survival and the possibility of irreparable atmospheric harm are the stakes. But with this speech he showed us that while everyone talks about the weather, he more than anyone on earth is preparing to do nothing remotely adequate about it.

Obama's one claim to fame in his first administration was his health care bill. If this was a success he is not likely to repeat it. He pretends he opposes the kind of Congress he has but he appoints Penny Pritzger Commerce

Secretary and lets the “sequester” go on and on without essential challenge. Meanwhile his health care victory has not kept health care costs down. One big reason is that the real estate market for ‘for-profit’ health care facilities is booming. Hospital bills you get go to pay new mortgages. But your insurance costs will go right back up as respiratory illnesses and their frequency increase. He pretends to care about the carbon content of the atmosphere but delays the implementation of the workplace safety law for another year (until 2015) and says he won’t let the Keystone XL pipeline be completed if a study shows tar sands refining will doom the atmosphere for future generations. This is an invitation to the revolving door industry tomorrow like yesterday, government expert today bunch to prepare a whitewash. And of course this is ultimately meaningless, i.e., without the pipeline the tar sands will be sent elsewhere for refining by tankers. But for mensheviks and pie cards, Obama gets to pose as concerned and thoughtful.

The truth is grim. The reputable, repeatable, independent scientific report has already been done. Tar sands refining will finish us off. This is because the danger level of carbon contamination of the atmosphere, which was not established or realized when it was first measured during the “International Geophysical Year” in 1958, had already been exceeded AT THAT TIME. We are talking about a danger level of an aerobic 280 parts per million; the 1958 figure was 300 PPM and the current figure has just topped 400 PPM. Reforms generally, the generation of some more alternative fuel subsidy plans and new deadlines for E.P.A. regulation changes proposals and some more solar power on public lands altogether are just a sop for the credulous and talking points for the political cynics supporting bourgeois power no matter what. This would include, or will, all the fake socialists and mensheviks whose new bandwagon dumps on [Lenin](#). They will continue to support capitalist states long after it is abundantly clear to most working class people and others that capitalism’s aims are both an escape from freedom and Fukiyama “end of history.”

Going under the radar are the Administration’s hands off attitude to hydrofracking and its promotion of nuclear power. You would imagine the obvious hazards of hydrofracking for the potable water supply would cause a federal ban, but of course such a ban is impossible under a bourgeois regime. And Obama steamrolled the approval process for a new nuclear plant in Georgia, the first

new nuclear plant to be approved in the post-Three Mile Island era. This even though the liars at Tokyo Electric have finally had to concede that nuclear radiation is escaping into the ocean from some unknown spot under the Fukushima meltdown of its G.E. reactors. Everything about Obama’s attitude toward planet and species survival causes a thoughtful worker to wonder how we are supposed to survive. We will need another industrial revolution to produce abundance from far less: far less labor time per person, far less energy consumption and far less waste of materials. Only a workers’ plan will deliver this industrial revolution.

Obama gets to strike his faux-sympathetic pose the day after the head of the World Bank said that global warming will, if not arrested, cause the failure of their plans to eliminate world poverty by 2030. Of course this is an excuse and otherwise just spin. To eliminate world poverty requires a new industrial revolution employing a technology that is need-driven, not profits-ueber-alles. This industrial revolution will require a political will and workers’ plan, neither of which the capitalists have nor can they have and time running out. Their foreign policies show you what they have in mind. For them, the melting of the polar ice cap means new sea lanes for fuel tankers and drilling the sea floor for oil and gas wells. And maybe also wars with the Shanghi Cooperation Organization (SCO) over who will control the far north. Business as usual or bust. That is unless their other policies, like the Pacific Pivot, the TPPA and the combined alliances aimed at cordoning off China don’t result in war first.

To effectively oppose bourgeois plans you must fight their economic power, their state power and its parliamentary excrescence, and do so until they are eliminated and a bad memory only. Nothing else will save humanity. The recuperative powers of nature are wondrous but for-profit activity, capitalism, is poisoning the air, water and soil. The snooperstate is already preparing to criminalize those who defend nature, as animal rights activists in some states have already discovered. There is no time like the present to join a worldwide rebellion against the dictatorship of the capitalists, and to do it with the resolve that everything must change!

## SLAVE WAGES ARE NO JOKE

The old joke goes “God must love the poor—he’s made so many of them.” Today the joke goes, “The Walton family (owners of Wal-Mart) must love the poor.....” Mocking real workers while promoting their corporate image, these slave-wage employers peddle self-aggrandizing mythologies. By their furnishing supplementary income for the retired or ‘pin-money’ for the house wife, or “entry level work,” where youth learn work discipline and skills, (which presumably they can use to move up the ladder according to their ability....) Wal-Mart & the food franchises actually depress real workers wages. Today these workers are standing up at SUBWAY, STARBUCKS, MCDONALDS, in car washes and other slave wage franchises, for their rights in a long overdue battle that all workers and the labor movement must champion.

Without better industrial jobs available, the “stepping stone” mythological gibberish and media hype of the low wage paying corporations and franchises has exploded into picket lines, protests and organizing drives across the country. Low wage workers in the fast food and retail industry have entered the class struggle as an organizing force of the “new” proletariat in the urban centers. Their hands may not be on the levers of production, like mine workers, metal workers or auto-workers, but they are ubiquitous in the working class and they are our sons, daughters and increasingly, the young parents in our communities. Their fight for decent union wages and benefits is an inspiration

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*Ed. Note: Go to <http://cwgusa.wordpress.com/> for footnotes.*

*cont. from pg. 1, Egypt*

day facts. That the masses were on the streets last week and are at home this week does not signal any defeat. This rejection of the Islamist theocracy of the Muslim Brotherhood by the Egyptian masses can point the way forward for the secular revolutionary forces in Syria, such as the Local Coordination Committees (LCC) and neighborhood militias, who have been fighting Assad and even now are struggling against the imposition of Sharia law by the Islamist opposition in the liberated zones.<sup>1</sup> The ongoing series of demos and strikes against Mursi during the last year raises the spectre of permanent revolution, of the MENA working class entering the political arena under its own independent revolutionary banner to lead the masses to their democratic aspirations and to free the region from imperialist and capitalist exploitation.

Class War maintains that the call for a Constituent Assembly, or a “Revolutionary Constituent Assembly,” is ALL WRONG at this time and plays the game of the bourgeois democrats seeking to broker a new constitutional arrangement with the armed forces. To confuse the suppression of the major theocratic group, however reprehensible this may seem as a violation of civil liberty, with the suppression of democracy, is to side with those who believe democracy is parliaments and laws and not the activity of millions of Egyptians taking the streets and speaking their minds! To what extent the masses understand that they have superseded parliamentarism, we can’t say, but clearly they have begun to, and what they need now is a general strike movement and a workers’ councils movement, the first to split the enlisted ranks from the brass; the workers’ councils and militias to prepare to take all power away from the bourgeoisie!

In recent weeks we have seen theocratic politics take a beating, first in Turkey and now also in Egypt. Erdogan’s rule was badly shaken and its whole political direction of recent months, back in the direction of his party’s roots in Islamism with new laws inspired by religious proscriptions, all had to be put on hold or explicitly abandoned. No small part was played by the masses’ fears that the regime would oblige Obama and solve his regional dilemma by invading Syria. A similar mass sentiment in Egypt caused Mursi to cut Bashar al-Assad loose, (a reversal of an opening to Iran Mursi had hopes for,) but by then the workers of the cities, the unemployed youth and millions of women who see rule by the Muslim

Brotherhood as unrelieved oppression, all decided in their millions that a government that only solved problems for the clergy, behind a figure setting out to accumulate Pharaoh-like powers, was not going to be tolerated. Tens of millions took to the street to repudiate rule by the Muslim Brotherhood, a rule in no wise democratic and now mourned by no one in Egypt but its followers. And so the permanent revolution continues to develop, unevenly but inexorably, setbacks and all, around the Mediterranean rim.

In Egypt we watch the unrolling of the revolutionary period as most of the 85 million Egyptians opt consciously to be sophisticated, modern urban personalities insisting upon their democratic rights. **That these are going to be denied to them and for as long as possible by every servant of imperialism and each bourgeois party, including the Armed forces, in whom many continue to have illusions, is beginning to dawn upon mass consciousness ([Ali Ahmed, 12 Yr Old Student In Cairo Excoriates Muslim Brotherhood](#)).**<sup>2</sup> Already they have a sense of who they are and can be in terms of completing the Arab national revolution (many Egyptians will cry that they are leading it!) and of their own power.

The will of the masses has been frustrated again, and just as the working class was escalating its strike wave all this spring (even, to some extent, BECAUSE they were!) But they have asserted their power yet again and the permanent, post-1952 state has had to bow to them once more. At each conjuncture since January, 2011 the armed forces and the wing of the capitalist class that they represent, particularly the managerial elite of state capitalist enterprises, has exerted its power for ostensibly populist purposes.

In reality though, it has carried out imperialism’s wishes at each phase and in removing Mursi they removed a government that showed insufficient energy in complying with the conditions of the long-negotiated international monetary fund loans. These call for big changes in the way the Egyptian government spends money and it was this and not any question of religion in politics that meant Mursi had to go. These loan conditions are also aimed squarely at the livelihood of the Egyptian working class. And we can expect more reactionary laws, more price gouging in the markets and more attacks on every social gain, just as imperialism is demanding everywhere during this world crisis of the capitalist system. Will this become a circular track of logic and events

with a joke liberal executive and parliament ruling at the convenience and pleasure of the General Staff, the middle brothers of the capitalists and the clergy?

To break out of this circular track of mobilizing to halt the most egregious offenders and outrages, the one revolutionary class in modern society, the working class, must seize control of the state with the express aim and its own plan to put an end to human exploitation and capitalism.

To get out onto the revolutionary road the Arab working class needs revolutionary theory and action. To teach and popularize this theory and to lead revolutionary action by example, and also to gather and co-ordinate united revolutionary support from worker allies around the world, the workers need their own revolutionary party, a Bolshevik-Leninist party on the model of the 1938 foundations of the 4th International, at once the class memory of culture and struggle and champion against every form of subjugation and bosses’ agent. Right now such a party would fearlessly advocate and organize WORKERS COUNCILS and ENLISTED RANKS COUNCILS and WORKERS MILITIAS to wrest power from the exploiter class once and for all! We already find ourselves in the situation where the masses can’t wait for the formation of the revolutionary party they need. Just as the events in Libya and Syria have shown so far the biggest obstacle between the masses and the formation of their revolutionary workers party has been the international Menshevik alliance of Stalinists/Bolivarians/Castroists/the World Social Forum and fake Trotskyists of every stripe.<sup>3</sup> In this era of social media it is possible for the revolutionary workers to meet their obligation to expose this treachery wherever it is found.

### **Who wants Socialism and walks the walk?**

Such is not the program of those who in their orientalism<sup>4</sup> see no “Arab revolution,” or any revolution and instead have chronically supported the “anti imperialism” of local Bonapartist strongmen, those whose history also includes wiping out the leaders of the working class. Such is also not the program of those for whom the present historical instant’s lack of a Bolshevik party signals utter doom for the masses’ aspirations. Some of these have seen every development in the Middle East since the first days of the Tunisian rebellion as the works of the C.I.A. These too are orientalist, and they won’t lead anybody.

Then there are even much better forces among the revolution's supporters who are nevertheless confused and think "democracy" has some real content apart from the interests of the class it serves. This permits them to advocate a political bloc and even a "united front" with the Tamarod, with the National Salvation Front, and with the liberals around M. Al-Baradei, and to deceive themselves that this is something other than a popular front, the assassin of the workers movement and servant of U.S. imperialism. A popular front by another name and altogether nothing but a "democratic" front operation of a modernist slice of the bourgeoisie and a wannabe electoral excrescence resting on real rule by the army is what it really is. This is a bad mistake, akin to and logically deriving from a similar bad idea, the multi-class "anti-imperialist united front." The only principled bloc workers can have with these forces is the tacit one made with their feet and the slogan "Down with Mursi!" Many more workers already understand this reality than western leftists think.

But perhaps the most repellent and poisonous forces on the left are the Cliffites of the Egyptian Revolutionary Socialist Group (RS.) Following orders from the Menshevik mothership in London, the RS has steadfastly raised the wrong demands at every turn! When the anti-Mubarak uprising began the Egyptian Independent Trade Union Federation came out from underground and launched upon a rolling strike wave to bring down the regime. This got little western press at the time, largely because just afterward the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) entered the anti-Mubarak mass movement, turning 180 degrees from what they (the MB) had only the day before called "lawlessness." It was already time THEN to raise the slogan "For Workers' Councils" and "For A Government of Workers' Councils." Instead, the RS Cliffites announced that now was the time to form independent trade unions(!)<sup>5</sup> Later of course, when union organizing was under repressive attack, they wanted a Constitution, which piece of clergy-friendly poison the masses got rammed down their throats and then the racketeers' elections, parliamentary and then presidential, in which the RS backed the Muslim Brotherhood and Mursi!<sup>6</sup> They are members of the Tamarod and now they call upon the masses to "preserve their demands of June 30<sup>th</sup>" as they prepare for new—you guessed it—parliamentary and presidential elections. Don't let anyone tell you these "socialists" want any revolutionary socialism! They create illusions in the

Egyptian military and as late as July 6<sup>th</sup> RS stated, "millions of Egyptians poured into the streets and forced their institutions to remove the failed president."<sup>7</sup> Who else can they be speaking of but the army and police, and since when did they become the masses "own" institutions?

The RS invokes the blood of the martyrs going back to January, 2011 and then without so much as a pause for breath calls for a constituent assembly and a new president from among the January, 2011 anti-Mubarak forces and laws that carry out "retribution"(!) against the MB and the Military Council. This is a pipedream, that imperialism would permit such a bourgeois government to come to pass! We say again, only a workers government can complete the national democratic tasks of the revolution. Such a government will have an independent working class internationalist policy and to achieve this requires an insurrection and the complete destruction of the bourgeois state and all its super-structural flim-flam "institutions."

We predict they will support candidates of the liberal bourgeoisie and continue to try to pass themselves off as Trotskyists. Actual Trotskyism however has nothing in common with class collaboration. We say they will do so because we have seen their co-thinkers in action and seen how they demobilize the masses to appease their "strategic partners" ([see Lessons of Chicago Teacher's Strike](#)).<sup>8</sup> And we say so because their U.S. co-thinkers, the International Socialist Organization, albeit somewhat estranged now from London, are the official World Social Forum standard bearer-franchisees. We hope Egyptian workers will identify and quickly sidestep their ruinous game. Class independence in all political questions is the workers' road to power.

### Short-term prognosis/prescription

In the short-term, working class political independence is the means to removing the base of mass support for the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) among the impoverished in the backward villages. These were favored by the last MB/Army constitution's electoral districting maps so as to drown out workers' voices. Removing that support with a mass campaign for full-employment as a right will undercut the MB's implicit threat of civil war, which has already caused street battles and attacks on army posts in the Sinai. The masses are crying out for employment, the last serious right workers have left before the

complete triumph of tyranny! The Wall Street Journal is recommending Egypt get itself a Pinochet regime!<sup>9</sup>

Self-organization into mass, direct democratic local bodies and a coordinated national council of workers' and enlisted ranks' councils with immediately recallable delegates who serve for workers' wages only, will drive the theocratic opiate back out of politics AND take the ranks and their weapons away from the generals. This will take some doing, and those who realize the need should form the dedicated revolutionary workers' party with the necessary democratic centralist discipline to make sure of the accomplishment of fulfilling the national-democratic revolution in the only way possible for an oppressed semi-colony, via the socialist revolution!

A revolutionary workers' party would patiently explain how Egyptian and other Arab supporters of the Palestinian self-determination struggle—and the Palestinian masses themselves—have been put upon by the false consciousness and miserable projects of petty-bourgeois political leaders. While every bourgeois political force in Egypt strives to isolate the masses from their Palestinian allies, a revolutionary workers' party would help put Palestinian workers in the driver's seat of their own struggle for the first time. A revolutionary workers' government would exert every form of its power and to the utmost to cripple and excise the Zionist colonial settler state! Needless to say, while such a government will divulge all the bourgeois secret treaties it will tear up the Sadat/Begin peace pact. A revolutionary foreign policy in pursuit of completing the Arab national revolution would also render solidarity to Syrian and other revolutionary fighters in ways unseen in recent decades!

### Once more on the Constituent Assembly

We agree with the July 8<sup>th</sup> statement of the South African Workers International Vanguard Party (WIVP) where the comrades reject the slogan for a Constituent Assembly. Even though we don't agree that a military coup took place we can't imagine how a Constituent Assembly could be revolutionary at this time. We quote:

#### *"A Constituent Assembly?"*

*Some of the left like the RCIT are calling for a Constituent Assembly. But the central question is: who will convene it? The military? They have shown that they will do*

*Cont. pg. 21*

## No One is Illegal! Tear Down the Wall! For Free Movement Across Borders!

### For Immediate Full Citizenship Rights for All Immigrants!

*AFL-CIO/Change to Win Labor Leaders Selling Sham Democrats/Republican Immigration "Reform"*

#### Introduction:

Parrotting Obama and the Democrats strategy of courting the Latino vote, the two major labor federations in the U.S., the AFL-CIO and Change to Win, have been pushing hard for immigration "reform" under the banner of immigrant rights. While the labor movement has definitely taken a progressive trajectory over the last several decades towards organizing immigrant workers, the current proposed legislation has nothing to offer in advancing the rights of immigrants or the working class. And many of its provisions are outright reactionary, anti-immigrant and anti-working class. That the pro-capitalist union bureaucracy would even think of supporting such legislation only demonstrates the utter bankruptcy of their class-collaborationist, Democratic Party, national chauvinist political method and their inability to fight the assaults of the bosses. A labor leadership that cannot even organize struggle to defend our unions is certainly not capable of defending immigrant rights. This is being sold as a "fair and just" immigration reform. The working class does not need an immigration reform policy that is "fair" and "just" to decadent American capitalism.

What is "just" about increased border security and immigrant deaths, guest worker status, e-verify employment authorization or waiting years for not even guaranteed citizenship, with many hurdles put in place? ***We say there can be no second-class workers.*** The demand for "immediate full citizenship rights for all immigrant workers and their families" unites the most oppressed workers with the rest of the class; it does so in logic, but in fact the conscious workers have to wage the struggle for this unity. This requires launching a struggle for ***jobs for all***. Immediately these struggles will collide head long with the interests of our capitalist class enemy and with their defenders. We need to unite and organize the entire multi-racial, multi-ethnic working class to fight against this unjust capitalist system, and a critical part of that fight means defending the

democratic rights of immigrants, one of the most vulnerable and exploited sections of the working class.

The Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, and Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), a student and youth-based organization, took a stand for ***Open Borders, No Restrictions and Full Citizenship Rights for All*** at this year's Cinco de Mayo demonstrations. Militant workers should be asking where their local union, District Council or Central Labor Council stand in the struggle for rights for immigrant workers. Action is needed through union resolutions, but primarily through mobilizations and job actions that bring to bear the power of the organized working class, speaking to the twin parties party in the language they understand.

#### "Reform" A Liberal Hustle: The Pathway to a Treadmill



*Hundreds of immigrant rights supporters held a rally and march in honor of International Workers' Day. (MPR Photo/Tylor Boland, 2008)*

***S.744, Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013***, the current proposal going through the Senate, was introduced by Senator Schumer (D) and co-sponsored by the bi-partisan "Gang of Eight". This legislation provides for an ostensible pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11.5 million undocumented persons that will take 13 years minimum and most likely far longer. The requirements to even gain the proposed Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) status include the payment of back taxes, large fines and fees; learning English and passing a civics test and not having a disqualifying criminal record. This status only includes those who have continuously resided in the U.S. since December 31, 2011, so it excludes future immigrants.<sup>1</sup> And even after all this, there are no guarantees. It would take ten years for a person in RPI status to be eligible to even apply for permanent residence and they would then be placed at the back of the applicant line. This so-called "pathway to

citizenship" is blocked with many boulders, pushed there by the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties, Obama, the sellout AFL-CIO/Change to Win union tops and the liberal political organizations.

Before any immigrant can gain RPI status or other provisions of this bill take effect, Schumer and the "Gang of Eight" tell us strict Border Security provisions must be met. This amounts to further militarization of the border and includes increasing the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents, construction of a double layer fence, and meeting a target of stopping 90% of border crossings.<sup>2</sup> As Marxists, we certainly support even minimal formal legal democratic rights, but these militarization provisions alone are enough to justify withholding any support for this legislation, never mind all the other reactionary provisions. This militarization will lead to increasing deaths as people attempt crossings in ever more remote and risky areas. 2012 saw the second highest number (463) of migrants' remains found at a time when border crossings numbers are declining.<sup>3</sup> These border security policies of the United States government have led to the deaths of thousands of immigrant workers.

As stated by the National Immigration Law Center, it is also notable that "*individuals granted RPI status, "blue card" status (agricultural workers), and "V" (non-immigrant visas) will not be eligible for "federal means-tested public benefits" programs such as nonemergency Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the duration of their provisional status. An individual with RPI status would not be able to enroll in programs such as Medicaid and SNAP for 15 years, even if eligible for other public benefits.*"<sup>4</sup>

Even though DREAM Act provisions are included that would allow youth to be eligible for green cards after five years of RPI and then immediately eligible for U.S. citizenship, this also comes with all kinds of requirements. They also may dangle credit for time served in the military as an incentive like the original DREAM act proposal. If so, this act will also be a boon for military recruiters as they have another means besides the poverty draft to sign up youth to fight U.S. imperialism's bloody adventures. We say in the best socialist tradition ***"Not one body!"***

***Not one penny for U.S. imperialist wars!***

Bill S.744 also expands the anti-worker E-Verify employment authorization system that not only targets immigrants, but potentially all workers in the age of the Patriot Act. They want to phase employers into this program over the next five years and make compliance mandatory. Even as immigrants fight to become legal citizens, civil liberties for the native born are being shredded as the government wages its “War on Terror,” which actually means a war on workers and the oppressed domestically and abroad. For the Black and Brown communities, this is a literal war being waged against their neighborhoods, as a Black person is gunned down by the racist cops every 28 hours in America.<sup>5</sup>

Between E-Verify checks, registering for RPI status or a applying for a visa, the federal and state agencies are being handed a full toolbox with which to track and target “undesirables,” native-born or not. The thing about capitalism is that what reforms the capitalists giveth today, they can taketh away tomorrow. This is especially true now, as everyone from the reformist left to the “liberal” Democrats, to the union bureaucracy are being pulled rightward as American capitalism descends into decay and the social gains of the past are being rolled back. Absent mass working class and social struggle, this reactionary trend is likely to continue. Immigrants with legal status today could very well find themselves deported in the future. Just ask the Roma who had their camps raided and then were deported from France under Sarkozy and now under Hollande. Their European Union (EU) citizen status was of no concern to the racist French government, despite the hypocritical bourgeois outcry from other EU nations.<sup>6</sup>

**Obama breaks his own record in deportations....meanwhile, AFL-CIO labor-faker tops partner with the class enemy**

In 2010, Obama allocated \$600 million to patrolling the border which included deploying drones. The Obama administration deported a record 1.5 million immigrants in his first term, and 409,849 in fiscal year 2012, breaking previous records--**set by his administration.**<sup>7</sup> In August, 2011, at a *Christian Science Monitor* breakfast Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano even bragged, “The numbers are

going to be very robust in terms of numbers of removal -- we don't fool around about this. Our border enforcement is second to none.”<sup>8</sup> And she isn't kidding.

Amnesty International in their 2009 report, *Jailed Without Justice: Immigration Detention in the USA*, condemned the practice of jailing immigrants, including “*asylum seekers and lawful permanent residents with long-standing ties.*” They detailed how people are “*needlessly locked up in state and local jails and prisons for the sole purpose of appearing at immigration hearings.*” On March 25, 2013, the New York Times reported how detained immigrants are kept in barbaric conditions of solitary confinement, about 300 on any given day. “Nearly half are isolated for 15 days or more, the point at which psychiatric experts say they are at risk for severe mental harm...,” and some are isolated due to mental illness or sexual orientation.<sup>9</sup> If the Obama administration's attacks on immigrants appear “humane” to liberals, it is only because it is difficult to compete on the social reaction scale with such racist, right-wing, anti-immigrant xenophobes as Iowa nut job Congressman Steve King.



Members of ILGWU (Garment Workers), Local 23-25 on strike, New York City's Chinatown, 1982<sup>14</sup>

And while the Feds wage attacks on immigrants, several states have enacted or tried to enact anti-immigrant legislation in the wake of the Supreme Court's upholding of Arizona's notorious immigration enforcement laws (SB 1070 and HB 2162). Alabama outdid Arizona in 2011 by passing HB56 which is considered the toughest immigration law in the United States. Its provisions deter children from going to school, deny people public benefits and the ability to rent housing or earn a living, along with a range of new immigration-related offenses with draconian penalties attached. It also involves racial profiling where state and local police officers can detain and investigate people based on a “suspicion” that they may be undocumented immigrants. In effect this is a throwback to

the days of *de jure* segregation of George “Segregation Forever” Wallace's Alabama. In 2012, the Alabama law was revised and made even harsher.

For their part, ***the leadership of the AFL-CIO partnered with the Chamber of Commerce at the request of the Gang of Eight to come up with a new guest worker deal.***<sup>10</sup> That these labor leaders would go hobnobbing with the class enemy to shamelessly concoct a retrograde guest worker policy for American capitalism in the throes of a systemic crisis, only brings socialist Daniel De Leon's characterization of them as the “labor lieutenants of the capitalist class” into sharp detail. This parasitic, privileged, pro-capitalist layer within the workers movement identifies its interests more with the class enemy than with the vast mass of unorganized, highly exploited workers as they push this “labor-management” class collaboration, cooperation crap.

This bill will continue a tradition of *bracero* type guest worker systems. *Braceros* were immigrant workers brought into virtual slave-labor conditions in agriculture and on the railroads during 1942-64 as needed and then tossed aside at the whim of the bosses. The original *bracero* system was overturned during the Civil Rights Movement with the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act and was replaced by a family-based system. “Merit-based” visas would be granted under the current proposal in order to meet the labor needs of the bosses, and will be highly exploitive despite whatever formal, alleged labor “protections” are written into the legislation.<sup>11</sup> The Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) stated in their eNewsletter (April 7, 2013):

*“President Obama's version of comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) is that Big Labor and Big Corporate Business have reached an agreement on including a guest-worker/bracero program in any future immigration reform legislation. The number of such new “braceros” could reach 200,000 annually, according to the news reports. Ernesto Galarza, Cesar Chavez, Congressman Edward Roybal, and Bert Corona are all turning over in their graves. Each in their own rite and on their own terms and at their own time fought vehemently against the old Bracero Program (1942-1964) and any form of indentured servitude represented by such programs and the inherent abuses associated with the same.”*

cont. from pg. 7, *Immigrants*

The current proposal will mean more employer-based visas, designed to guarantee a steady source of labor, and will come at the expense of family-based visas, as the Senate proposal would eliminate visas for siblings and adult married children over age 30 of U.S. citizens. However the family-based H2 visa program that is in place now and which replaced the old *bracero* system is itself a form of indentured servitude.<sup>12</sup>

As Gilbert G Gonzalez, author of *Guest Workers or Colonized Labor? Mexican Labor Migration to the United States* wrote:

***“In the recent agreement reached between the AFL-CIO and the Chamber of Commerce, guest workers are to be paid the prevailing wages and provided standard working and living conditions, the very same measures that were to regulate the Bracero Program which were ignored. However, in none of the proposals put forward was there any mention of the dire working and living conditions that H2 workers currently experience in spite of protections written into their contracts. The Southern Poverty Law Center researched the conditions and found that “far from being treated like “guests,” these workers are systematically exploited and abused...guestworkers do not enjoy the most fundamental protections of a competitive labor market.” The immigrant rights organization, International Labor Recruitment Working Group, reported that guest workers generally experience “fraud, discrimination, severe economic coercion, retaliation, blacklisting and in some cases, forced labor...” H2 guest workers are supposedly afforded all sorts of protections, as were the braceros, but facts speak otherwise.”(emphasis added, The New Bracero Program within Comprehensive Immigration Reform, April 22, 2013)***<sup>13</sup>

### Immigrant rights are workers' rights!

Anti-immigrant, along with anti-Black racism, is the spearhead of social reaction in America. The defense of immigrant workers, along with Black and Brown rights is crucial for the American working class. Immigrants bring strong traditions of labor militancy and class consciousness as was demonstrated for example by the Justice for Janitors LA strike in 1990 and the International Workers May Day walkouts in 2006. The working class in America will be incapable of uniting and making significant gains unless they come

to the defense of their immigrant fellow workers. Karl Marx wrote of chattel slavery “Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded.” This quote could be applied metaphorically to Black oppression as well as to immigrants today. In the union organizing victory at Smithfield Foods in North Carolina in 2008, Black and Brown unity against anti-immigrant attacks played a major role in successful union organizing. In contrast, the South remains largely unorganized today because the CIO was unwilling to take on Jim Crow segregation during its Operation Dixie organizing drive from 1946-53. And while AFL-CIO President Trumka may invoke his Polish immigrant ancestors, anti-immigrant racism is directed primarily at those emigrating from Central and South America, the Caribbean and Africa.

As Marx wrote of the British and Irish working class:

***“And most important of all! Every industrial and commercial centre in England now possesses a working class divided into two hostile camps, English proletarians and Irish proletarians. The ordinary English worker hates the Irish worker as a competitor who lowers his standard of life. In relation to the Irish worker he regards himself as a member of the ruling nation and consequently he becomes a tool of the English aristocrats and capitalists against Ireland, thus strengthening their domination over himself. He cherishes religious, social, and national prejudices against the Irish worker. His attitude towards him is much the same as that of the “poor whites” to the Negroes in the former slave states of the U.S.A.. The Irishman pays him back with interest in his own money. He sees in the English worker both the accomplice and the stupid tool of the English rulers in Ireland.***

***This antagonism is artificially kept alive and intensified by the press, the pulpit, the comic papers, in short, by all the means at the disposal of the ruling classes. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class, despite its organisation. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power. And the latter is quite aware of this.”*** (emphasis added, *Letter: Marx to Sigfrid Meyer and August Vogt In New York, 1870*)<sup>15</sup>

The infamous, racist Postville, Iowa raid (see excellent documentary *AbUSed:*

*The Postville Raid*) and deportations at Agriprocessor, Inc. in 2008 also points to the intersection of labor and the fight for immigrant rights. This raid was conducted at a time when the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) were conducting an organizing campaign. There were large rallies, organized mainly by religious organizations. But what was needed was a fighting labor movement. Massive, militant Labor, Black, and Brown mobilizations to defend the immigrant workers against La Migra ***through labor actions*** should have been built. Organized Labor/Black/Brown self-defense guards should have been organized with the perspective of driving ICE out of the plants and the community. Labor action such as solidarity strikes were needed both throughout the Midwest, as well as nationally and internationally ***to demand no deportations and that all workers imprisoned be immediately released.*** An all-out organizing campaign should have been launched to organize not only Agriprocessors, but the entire meat-packing industry which is heavily immigrant. And the surrounding communities should have been organized as well.



Workers at the Austin, Minnesota, Hormel plant begin a sit-down strike in 1933 when owner Jay Hormel refuses to negotiate with their union, the Independent Union of All Workers.<sup>16</sup>

In the 1930's, at Hormel in Austin, Minnesota, workers organized the Independent Union of All Workers using militant, class struggle means such as sit-down strikes. This was led by Frank Ellis, an IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) organizer and Trotskyist militants. They went on to organize much of Austin and surrounding communities “wall-to-wall”. This is the kind of organizing that is desperately needed today. It certainly isn't going to come though from the servile, sellout, class-collaborationist union bureaucracy, whose ideas of “mobilizations” are rallies and vote-herding for the Democratic Party. We need a fighting union leadership. Worker militants need to start organizing rank-and-file caucuses and action committees within our unions based on a program of irreconcilable class struggle to organize and

mobilize the workers against the assault of capital and to replace the misleadership of the labor-fakers who hold back struggle. Uniting the trade unions with the oppressed communities in struggle is necessary if we are to even begin to defend what we have. Anti-immigrant racism sows disunity within the working class and places a very vulnerable and exploited sector of workers in an even weaker position. Immigrants didn't cause the financial collapse and attacking immigrants does nothing but further the consolidation of power of the wealthy few who exploit workers throughout the world.

Internationally the capitalist crisis has seen the rise of xenophobic, racist reaction. This is very notable in Greece, where the economic collapse has reached a tipping point. The rapid growth and rise of the fascist Golden Dawn, who along with the police, are terrorizing immigrant communities, is a very ominous sign. The fascists, if not stopped, will not only attack immigrants, but they will crush the labor movement and the workers and leftist political parties. France recently has seen attacks on the Roma by "Socialist" President Hollande. The labor bureaucracy, the reformist socialists, the Stalinists, the Chavistas and the anarchists have no means of resolving the crisis of capitalism and theirs are the politics of dead-end reformism. They have no perspective of organizing workers defense guards and militias; of building workers councils and building revolutionary Leninist workers parties to fight to organize the workers to smash the capitalist state and implement workers rule, and fight for socialism on a world scale.

### **Imperialism and "Free Trade," Super-Exploitation of the International Working Class**

It is because of imperialism that people are driven through desperation to emigrate. People prefer to stay with their families and only leave due to economic or political circumstances. They are driven by brutal exploitation and despair to seek a better life in America. It is US imperialism and the drive for profit that has played the major role in forcing workers and peasants to leave their countries and seek a better life.

The implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) increased U.S. imperialist exploitation of Latin America. While NAFTA did create 800,000 jobs in the Maquiladora zone in Mexico, income inequality and poverty have risen as nearly two million campesinos in Mexico

were uprooted off traditional subsistence farmlands while the real wages of workers have fallen by about 20 percent. And now capital is moving to capitalist China where raw exploitation is even greater. The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the Central American Free trade Agreement (CAFTA) currently under negotiation contain no formal protections for workers rights. These trade agreements will further the bosses' assault on workers in the US and throughout Latin America.<sup>17</sup>

U.S. imperialism is also trying to expand its influence over the Pacific Rim against China through the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), which is poised to be the largest trade agreement in the world. This agreement will give corporations the flexibility and freedom to move to low-wage countries to exploit labor without constraint. Through TPPA, capital is also pushing for further financial deregulation, caps on food safety protections, longer drug patents, and the dismantling of environmental laws. Also under consideration is the *"ability for corporations to challenge virtually any new law, regulation or even court decision that adversely affects their expected profits."* This would take place through *"international tribunals that circumvent domestic judicial systems."*<sup>18</sup> Make no mistake. This is will be unfettered capitalist exploitation that would make an 1890's robber baron envious.

Capitalism is a world economic system; National divisions are maintained by the capitalists so that Capital can control its sources of wealth and in the imperialist club expand their exploitation beyond their borders. It was Marx that predicted that capital would seek to commodify the world and that despite capital being national in origin, it acts on an international basis, remaking the world in a manner in which it can exploit labor, thereby uniting all workers in an international class confrontation. The main enemy is at home and it is American capitalism, the capitalist ruling class and their Democratic/Republican political parties, not working class sisters and brothers! We say workers of the world unite! There are no borders to capitalist nations which workers are bound to respect! The system is international, our class is international and the struggle is international!

As our fraternal comrades in the **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe** stated recently in calling for International Working Class solidarity: **"WE CALL ON WORKERS IN THE**

**IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES USA, FRANCE, AND CHINA: TAKE THE JACK BOOT OF IMPERIALISM OFF OUR NECKS! TURN THEIR COLONIAL WARS AND PROXY WARS IN AFRICA AND ASIA INTO CLASS WARS AT HOME! DEFEAT YOUR RULING CLASS' ECONOMIC AND MILITARY INTERVENTIONS!"**

**Unite the Entire Working Class in Struggle at Home & Internationally Across Borders!**

**No one is illegal! Tear down the fence and disband the Border Patrol! Abolish the ICE!**

**For free movement of all workers across the border! No fines or fees! Full, immediate citizenship rights for all workers!**

**Down with racism and racial profiling! No scapegoating of oppressed peoples! Down with English-only bigotry!**

**For mass Labor/Community militant actions to stop La Migra raids and deportations! For labor political strikes to defend immigrant workers! For Labor defense guards to defend immigrants at the border and to clear out the racist Minutemen!**

**Free all detained undocumented workers! Full employment rights for all workers! Down with E-Verify! Let workers choose where to work by demanding that all workers who do the same work get the same contract, same wages, and same working conditions, regardless of country! An injury to one is an injury to all! For international working class struggle!**

**Fight for full employment at full union rates and benefits for all! For 30 hours of work for 40 hours pay to spread the available work! Nationalize major industries and the financial sector without compensation under workers control to provide adequate access to credit and to get the wheels of industry rolling again!**

**Break with the Democrats and Republicans! Build a fighting workers'/labor party to struggle for a workers' government that will raise workers' standard of living! Abolish capitalism and its system of national borders! For a new revolutionary Workers International, the world party of socialist revolution!**

(Ed Note: Published on May 10th . Not updated in light of recent events)

# The BART STRIKE: LESSONS FOR PUBLIC WORKERS



The BART strike lasted barely a week before the leadership made a tactical retreat, or was it a strategic collapse in the first place?

The BART board came in swinging and provoked the strike by engaging the non-starter union smashing Viola corporation to negotiate for them. Highly underreported, these thugs came into negotiations with a 1% offer and demands that employees kick in for medical and pensions (benefits the media won't tell you were traded for wages in the early days of BART, at management's insistence.)

At the end of this four year contract the BART workers find themselves behind from missing cost of living increases, some 30%, and the 1% opening position of management not only put the wage considerations too far apart, not only ignored the concerns of health and safety, but it was a slap in the face. They essentially booted BART workers out the negotiation room door and into a strike. The union had recommended a 60 day cooling off period but management had no intention of budging; not wanting to have a strike in September, they provoked it now.

Standing up for safer working conditions following the electrocution of a BART worker in the tunnel for lack of adequate lighting, as well as retrenchment of safety engineers, the BART workers in the San Francisco Bay Area took their first strike action in 15 years. After a week where the unions proved they

could bring Bay Area Traffic to a standstill, a 30 day cooling off period was brokered by state mediators and the following stalemate is reported by ABC news [here](#):

*"... 'BART wants to impose, BART wants to force a contract, they want to keep us out on strike, they think the public's going to completely turn and that's the card they're playing,' SEIU negotiator Pete Castelli said.*

*The unions claim BART is trying to break them, and seems willing to wait them out on demands for 4.5 percent per year salary increase over three years and greater safety measures throughout the system.*

*BART's latest offer is 2 percent per year for four years and increased employee contributions to both health care and pension costs."*

## LABOR CANNOT WIN WHILE TIED TO THE DEMOCRATS!

The 'perfect storm' of a labor offensive was predicted, yet failed to appear. The Alameda County Transit workers and the Oakland City workers (many in the same SEIU local 1021 as are some BART workers) who are also out of contract, had an opportunity to launch a united public workers strike with broad-based working class solidarity with a strategy to win. Considering that the sister union of SEIU 1021, SEIU 1000 representing 95,000 state workers (as well as all 11 other state worker unions) are also out of contract, with a little forethought and inter-union

organizing and strategizing, the 1.5 million public workers in California could launch actions giving labor the upper hand.

To win any struggle during the imposition of the austerity, the onslaught by the 1%, it will take a union leadership based on an organized and militant rank and file which adopts a class struggle perspective of indefinite strikes, solidarity strikes, and a strategy that unites all public workers and public service end users to make the ruling class pay! To win, class struggle unions will develop and adopt transitional demands that unite the working class to achieve their immediate and long term goals, their own means of struggle, and political independence from the bosses' political parties.

Tied as they are to the Democratic Party and the institutions of government, our unions cannot wage serious militant strikes and move them into the united strike waves, General and Political Strikes it will take to win. The unions, however, are so deeply entrenched in the capitalist Democratic Party, they are bound by a cross-class alliance making them incapable of sustaining a fight against the self-same politicians the dues dollars and phone banking help to elect.

Holding back class struggle militancy is the view perpetuated by the likes of SEIU ex-president Andy Stern, that the Democratic Party is Labor's party! Via the transmission belt of the labor aristocracy and entrenched union bureaucracy, both individual workers and the working class as a whole are infected with bourgeois thought patterns and aspirations (false consciousness—capitalist ideology), self-blame, individualism, separation consciousness, all impeding class consciousness, perpetuating racism, misogyny, homophobia, and social-imperialist chauvinism, which combine into a reactionary backward consciousness, perpetuated by the media, the culture and the state, which limit labor's power to mobilize the entire class to win strikes.

For an example of a template for transforming our unions into fighting organizations that can win is already being employed by CWG members and supporters: see Inter Union Organizing Committee Statement that follows and the [video](#) of an IUOC action against concessionary contracts.

## Declaration of the Inter-Union Organizing Committee

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Inter-Union Organizing Committee announces its intention to unite California State workers (in particular), public workers in general and all workers in action to form fighting rank and file class struggle caucuses to take our unions back from the sell-outs who have proven to be incapable of defending our wages, benefits, and working conditions. Those who tell us to sign concessionary contracts, who told us to “share the pain” are the transmission belt of the bosses’ ideology in the workers’ organizations. The fighting rank and file Caucuses declare for the historic interest of the entire working class and against the labor tops who play footsie with management and chain labor to the bosses’ political parties!

Those who tell us “our union” only represents the current dues-payers have abandoned the Knights of Labor’s clarion call: “An injury to one is the concern of all!” We ask: When did the rank and file vote to abandon the pensioners, the unorganized, our future co-workers, the marginalized, and the oppressed? Our wages and working conditions can only be defended if we unite all workers to fight for the interests of the entire working class! Today’s professional labor misleaders narrow business unionism do the bosses bidding in our organizations. The bosses assisted by these misleaders keep workers separated by trade, by bargaining unit and by union, by race, gender and condition of employ. We need to unite all our unions to take joint action for all the contracts that are coming due around the State. To win we must exert labor’s full muscle! That starts with joint action at the front gate!

We reject the failed leaderships’ strategy that ties unions to the corporate rulers’ political machines-the Democratic and the Republican parties. We demand an end to union funding of their campaigns and instead demand: **build strike funds and run our own labor candidates!** We reject the failed strategy of putting labor’s faith in the courts and lobbyists while abandoning workers’ strongest weapons: the indefinite strike, the general strike, the worksite occupation and unity in action of the entire working class.

Today’s misleaders isolate labor, they run from the fact that unions have real power only when we organize rank and file class-wide and with a class struggle program. Thus they divide the 9% of the organized

working class from the 91% of unorganized workers. Notice how quickly they accepted the furloughs and gave back gains in the last contract. They have no plan to win what was lost. They refuse to unite all public workers let alone the entire working class, thus leaving us disarmed.

Our task is not to admonish or convince the failed labor “leaders”, rather our task is to drive them from office and rise up a new generation of committed class struggle worker militants to take back our unions, establish the political independence of labor, defeat the anti-labor laws and fight for the historic interests of the entire working class. Fight for a workers’ economy!

### What the California State Workers Class Struggle Caucus stands for:

1. For full union democracy. For regular meetings under rank and file control with the right to the immediate recall of officers. For elected business agents. For all positions to be elected, not appointed. No officer (not even the international president) shall be paid any more than the highest base wage of the workers they represent. Establish a strong stewards’ movement to organize, activate and defend each worker in each unit. Accept no contract without annual COLA to keep pace with inflation! For retroactive COLA for the last 10 yrs. No to two-tier wage and benefit systems or second-class workers! No concessions, no givebacks and no “shared sacrifice”! Organize the contract workers! Make the bosses pay!
2. No secret negotiations. No back room deals! No lawsuits against the unions. Keep the bosses courts out of the unions. Labor must clean its own house! No to binding arbitration!
3. For united inter-union organizing and job actions by AFSCME, SEIU Local 1000, IUOE 39, CDF, CAPS, PECGS, CAPT, CAPD. For united negotiations, one master contract, and a united expiration date. For workers control over pension funds. Organize contract workers at full union wages and benefits. End outsourcing and privatization. Hire existing contract workers to the public institution! Build strike funds!
4. For picket lines that no one crosses! Arm the unions with the strike weapon! Revive the class struggle tactics that built the unions: mass picket lines, sit-down strikes, flying picket

squads, hot-cargoing and defiance of the bosses’ courts/laws. Defy the injunctions! Smash Taft-Hartley and all other anti-labor laws through militant labor struggle! “The only illegal strike is the one that loses!”

5. Organize the unorganized “wall-to-wall”! Bring the unemployed into the union! Mobilize unemployed leagues within the unions to fight for relief for the unemployed and full employment! Provide union training for the unemployed, direct the newly trained to worker controlled public works programs!
6. Organize undocumented and documented immigrant workers. For immediate full citizenship rights for all immigrants! Down with I.C.E./ employer IMAGE program! No deportations! Down with English-only bigotry! The bosses super-exploit undocumented labor and use them to drive down wages; labor must embrace and organize the undocumented. **Across borders we demand: same work same contract! Make the bosses pay immigrant workers the same benefits, the same employment taxes and workers compensation!**
7. The right to a job is the right of every worker. Fight for full employment. For a 30 hour workweek at 40 hours pay to share existing work! No time limit on unemployment benefits! Provide safe, creative, honest productive work for all!
8. Defend Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and welfare programs. Not “tax the rich” welfare state schemes but open the books of finance capital, nationalize banks and major industry without compensation and run them under workers’ control. For a system of public works to rebuild the decaying infrastructure of America.
9. For racially integrated quality public education. Free public higher education with a student stipend. Labor ally with students to defend public education! For teachers, staff, student control of education.
10. Housing is a right! Mobilize labor to stop evictions and foreclosures through rent strikes and blockades! Seize foreclosed housing and abandoned buildings for the homeless and displaced.
11. Eliminate profiteering off of illness. Free quality healthcare for all! Socialize the

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medical industry. Free reproductive services to include free abortion on demand! For free 24-hour childcare. Full democratic rights for gays/lesbians/transgender including the right to marriage.

12. End discrimination in housing and employment. Down with racist cop harassment and brutality! For labor, Black and Brown self defense guards to stop the KKK/Nazis and racist police terror! Unite community and labor in joint defense.
13. An injury to one is an injury to all! Mobilize labor to defend whistleblowers! Free Bradley Manning!
14. For international labor solidarity! For joint Canadian, American, Mexican and Central American labor struggle! Down with "Buy American" anti-Chinese campaigns and other chauvinist protectionism. Unite all workers internationally against imperialist wars! Defeat U.S. imperialism! Imperialism Hands off Syria! US out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen. Soldiers end the illegal wars and come home. The real fight is against the 0.1% not the poor victims of drones and night raids abroad.
15. For a workers' party to fight for a workers' government! Break with the Democrats/Republicans! Run labor candidates now! Only a workers government can mobilize the productive forces to combat climate change and environmental destruction.

Class Struggle Caucus composed of members of SEIU Local 1000, AFSCME & CAPS.  
June, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## **VOTE NO ON ALL OF BROWN'S CONCESSIONARY CONTRACTS!**

**THE INTER-UNION COMMITTEE OF STATE WORKERS AT CDPH CALLS FOR UNITED ACTION OF ALL STATE AND PUBLIC WORKERS AGAINST CONCESSIONARY CONTRACTS! VOTE THEM DOWN! INITIATE ACTION COMMITTEES HOLD FORUMS PREPARE FOR A STATE WIDE GENERAL STRIKE!**

State & public workers and programs that serve the people are under attack by the very politicians workers put their faith in! In the

meantime the billionaires reap record profits, the banks and big corporations hoard capital and Governor Brown demands that State Workers accept concessionary contracts! With the legislature budget based on the trade agreement of SEIU 1000 the fix is in!

## **WE SHARED THE PAIN! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

State Workers already paid for the economic crisis with three years of furloughs, lost hours, stolen holidays, and uncompensated increases in medical and pensions. No Cost Of Living Allowances effectively cuts our wages by 25% since the year 2000, while attrition and hiring freezes results in speed up, stress and supervisorial misconduct (bullying-which contract language alone will not eliminate). Even the yet-to-be seen 3% increase from the 2012 contract only partially covered the increase in medical and pension contributions State Workers suffered under that agreement. The proposed 4.5% over two years of a 3 year contract puts us back further!

## **100 BILLIONAIRES SAY CALIFORNIA IS AWASH WITH CASH**

At the beginning of the crisis there were only 84 billionaires in California, today there are 100! It is not for the State Worker to tell the legislature or the governor where to get the money. That is their problem. But it is obvious that the money has been flowing to the top at the expense of those on the bottom! The State Worker and the unions helped put the Democrats in power in Sacramento but are finding out that these politicians won't stand up to the corporations, the big capitalists and the rich because they are owned by them! Labor must be independent to win!

## **UNION LEADERSHIP SELLS OUT THE WORKERS AGAIN**

From Jon Ortiz's article in the Sac Bee June, 10<sup>th</sup>, "*She said she would fight for us,*" said Erni Medina, "*but I don't even see where she threw a punch*" referring to SEIU president Yvonne Walker who came back from the bargaining table with 4.5% over two years of a three year contract! This after being mandated to fight for 16% and a bonus of \$2,500.00!

Our union leaderships take our dues dollars and give them to the politicians, lawyers and lobbyists instead of organizing the membership! Where is our strike fund? They have no strategy to fight for a fair contract!

That is why the Inter-Union Organizing Committee came together! If the union leaderships were doing their job the rank and file would already be organized. So today we must organize ourselves to VOTE NO on the concessionary contracts!

## **FORM UP ACTION COMMITTEES AT YOUR WORK PLACE**

Unite all 1.5 million public workers to fight the austerity and for fair contracts! Unite all workers and social program recipients to make the big finance houses-the bosses pay for their crisis!

Inter-Union Organizing Committee  
[cdphiuoc@gmail.com](mailto:cdphiuoc@gmail.com)

June 13, 2013

***Subscribe to Class Warrior,  
the theoretical journal of the LCC:***

Email: [cwgclasswar@gmail.com](mailto:cwgclasswar@gmail.com)

cont. from pg. 21, Hunger Strike

unusual punishment under the definition of the 8th amendment to the constitution but the supreme court refuses to endorse this view. The European union will not send prisoners to the US if they know they face extended solitary confinement. Between overcrowding in general population, and the extraordinary number of prisoners in solitary confinement, California's correctional record looks as bad as Georgia's or Mississippi's—GOD DAMN! Prisoners' demands call for fundamental humane treatment; quality food, end of long term indefinite solitary, ending group punishment, ending administrative segregation.

Prisoners are victimized for their identity, tattoos, associations, political activities and even as trivial an 'offence' as possession of art work revealing cultural or political sympathies can be regarded by the screws as sufficient excuse to segregate prisoners under the gang affiliation provisions of California prison regulations. We should point out that in California prisoners who are convicted of in facility murders receive a maximum of 5 years of solitary confinement whereas persons administratively judged to be gang affiliated or associated can be condemned to indefinite solitary confinement. The system is the crime. And it even commodifies the prisoners into a profit making state racket, the prison industrial complex.

## DEFEND BRADLEY MANNING! DEFEND EDWARD SNOWDEN! DOWN WITH THE SOCIAL-IMPERIALIST PRIDE BOARD!

A holy alliance between the Pride Board, the local Democratic Clubs, and corporate sponsorship paves a comfortable and familiar path for the politicians to arrive at PRIDE leveraging the interests of the status-quo over those of the masses. And thus when Bradley Manning, whose actions are viewed as heroic by those oppressed and victimized by the US imperialist military is elevated to Grand Marshall status in a clear expression of anti-imperialist sentiment-the true heart of the LGBT community- the class line had been drawn! By rejecting the community's anti-imperialist wishes, the Pride board became social-imperialists, besides being undemocratic, arbitrary and biased.

For those who live under the jackboot of imperialism every act that stymies the imperialist forces' ability to act militarily, economically or to act with impunity is heroic. Every defeat inflicted on imperialism on the battlefield of public credibility is a victory for the international working class. Embracing Bradley Manning, the heart and soul of the LGBT movement was drawing the class line against imperialism and therefore had to be slapped down by the social-imperialist, pro-corporate PRIDE board.

NGO's, CBO's and Democratic Party and Log Cabin Republicans have narrowed the agenda, strategy and tactics of the movement. They claim mainstreaming of the movement led to the overturn of DOMA and Prop 8 by the Supreme Court. These decisions secured some but not all democratic rights for LGBT persons, and came with a price that has been paid for with decades of abuse. Counted as nothing are decades of Acting Up and fighting back. The true cost of the mainstreaming of the movement was the abandonment of it's allies among the most oppressed and the crossing of the class line to embrace and support the political skills and representatives of imperialism (Obama, Clinton, Pelosi) and the imposers of capitalist austerity on the state and local level (Newsom, Leno, Amianno, Harris and Brown).

Working people and the base of the LGBT community need to know these same "LGBT-friendly" politicians and corporations

are themselves imposing the austerity, while approving, building and endorsing the National Security State. These very politicians defend and are responsible for US imperialist actions and their cover-ups. Thus in classic social-imperialist style, the Pride board conceded everything to the wishes of their corporate sponsors! This should have come as no surprise as the corporations have privatized the official LGBT movement, narrowing its agenda to equal rights in marriage and the military.

The San Francisco Gay Pride board shamed the history of the LGBT movement by overturning the decision to name "Queer Hero" Bradley Manning the Grand Marshall of the S.F. Gay Pride parade. The LGBT movement (both generally and concretely) grew out of and allied itself with, the civil rights, black and brown liberation, anti-war, anti-imperialist, United Farm workers, womens', feminist, socialist and libertarian movements. For LGBT youth and working class people this is still the case, yet for the middle class LGBT and labor aristocratic layers the status quo of bourgeois politics prevailed.

The Pride board had an opportunity to build solidarity with those who by their millions see Bradley Manning as a hero. But this board sold its soul for a bowl of pottage; to protect their cozy political and corporate relations they choose the narrowed interests of the LGBT elite over those of the masses, the working class and the victims of capitalist exploitation and imperialist military brutality internationally.

The program for full LGBT liberation is yet to be written and cannot be until the movement breaks from the political parties which are based on the capitalist system, the system synonymous with patriarchy and the propertied gender-dominant roles that perpetuate Women's, Youth and LGBT oppression.

Such a program would include: full democratic rights for all; protection from bullying through LGBT & labor self defense, intervention and education by self organization against homophobic violence; end homelessness, create safe transition centers for the homeless and the runaways, with sufficient social services to elevate each from the misery of street life; for socialized childcare, medical care and education, free abortion on demand, free 24 hour child care services, and equal pay for equal work, for jobs for all and we militantly refuse to accept

gay bashing or exclusion from employment based on sexual preference or orientation.

## DEFEND SNOWDEN, MANNING AND ASSANGE!

The July 8<sup>th</sup> Militant (organ of the US Socialist Workers Party [SWP]) tells workers that Manning and Snowden are not heroes or traitors .

*"Those who think that secret revelations from whistleblowers are the way workers find out about how capitalism and its war machine operate, or inspire mass action in defense of political rights, sow naïve and dangerous illusions about the source of the problem and the road to its solution.*

*...Manning and Snowden act on the premise that revelations will make some capitalist politicians come to their senses and do the right thing.*

*....Revelations like those of Manning and Snowden do not point a road forward for the working class. They foster conspiracy theories and paranoia that divert and demobilize us. "*

In contrast the Militant polishes its own lapel by referring to their 1973 lawsuit which exposed the Cointelpro program (government spying and infiltration of workers, civil rights, black liberation and anti-imperialist groups) and says nothing about the illusions in the capitalist judiciary fostered by this type of lawsuit! Like the pot calling the kettle black, the Militant skirts this issue completely. The Militant claims the SWP case rested its strength on the masses of the proletarians who mobilized to end Jim Crow and the mass movement which ended the Vietnam war. Yet the case was hardly used for mobilizing masses in the streets or in the unions; it was an academic and legal exercise carried out as the movement was on the wane, by the middle class base and periphery of the SWP which had deproletarianized, staking everything on the student and other single-issue sectoral movements.

Did the Cointelpro case create expectations that with exposure in the courts, the police state's undemocratic behavior would be abated? Indeed for the SWP's middle class periphery such was supposed to be a reasonable expectation, especially as the SWP's public action and program fostered many similar illusions in parliamentarism (think of Novack's 'linear extension of democracy') and the legal-peaceful road to

*Cont. pg. 14*

cont. from pg. 13, Snowden, Manning, Assange  
“revolution”!

Yet despite their victorious case and all good work done, forty years later the exposures of the COINTELPRO case have not abated the behavior of the National Security State, not one iota. Nor should we expect it to have done so.

Marxists understood the value of smearing egg on the face of the state, of defending our militants in court and of arming the movement with the information acquired from the procedural process of the legal inquiry. However, the capitalists run the state and organize their security police as they see fit. We get ample proof of this from the contemporary revelations of Manning, Assange and Snowden.

By their actions the rhetorical question is posed, “if this is democracy what is wrong with this picture?” The Militant, in essence, tells whistle blowers, “don’t leak secrets...” --this the same thing Obama, Kerry and Pelosi are telling workers! Or they are cynically saying we’ll tell you when revelations have a special meaning for the working class!

Marxists on the other hand support every action on the battlefield of war or of public opinion that pushes imperialism towards its grave. Snowden and Manning may have had illusions in the democratic institutions of the State at the time of their decisions; however, since then they have undoubtedly received an accelerated education. Manning has become an explicit anti-imperialist. Snowden says he doesn’t want to live in a country or a world that practices espionage against the person. The hypocrisy of the imperial state attempting to kill the messenger is a moral blow to imperialism’s credibility, to its benefactors, its apologists and the dominance of its ideological sway. A time survey polls shows 70% of youth age 18-34 support Snowden and approve of his actions (see <http://guardianlv.com/2013/06/united-states-and-the-youth-movement/>).

Socialists support every exposure of the imperialist state’s secrets. If the workers movement had organized the rank and file of the military against imperialist wars instead of building the anti-war movement around social pacifism, there would be a movement of workers in uniform taking action against and exposing the secrets of imperialism, in which case the whistle blowers like Manning and Snowden would not be driven by their moral convictions to act alone. The workers movement would have their back and defend

them everywhere.

Long ago the SWP had a policy of organizing the rank and file of the military against imperialist wars. In those days socialists would support every exposure of imperialist state secrets. Even now with no such movement we should solidarize with and support any individuals whose conscience drives them to expose the secrets of the state. Class war prisoners like Snowden, Manning and Assange, in uniform or work-clothes should be defended unconditionally and where possible liberated by the workers movement and not derided for “fostering conspiracy theories...” and “demobilizing us”! Revolutionary socialists call on rank and file military to form up your own councils, elect your own officers, expose military and intelligence secrets that defend imperialism and its interests, arrest officers whose actions and orders are illegal, predatory, aggressive and constitute crimes against humanity! Organize a “Let’s Go Home!” movement and close all overseas bases now!

cont. from pg. 3, *Slave Wages*

and revitalizing force in the organization of the American working class today.

As the low paying jobs make up a greater and greater percentage of the available work, more workers are driven into poverty. These jobs depress the exchange value of the worker’s labor power. The result is life-long quarantine of large percentages of the black and brown population and immigrant workers, largely from the global south, into a vast pool of low wage labor who compete for jobs in an employer’s market.

Many workers have to get two or more jobs because employers cut hours to avoid paying medical or other benefits. This minimum wage existence forces many to work more than 40 hours with excessive travel between jobs, and they are still treading water in a lead-lined *Speedo*.

“A study taken in 2012 estimated that roughly 38% of Americans live “paycheck to paycheck.” ([Wikipedia](#)) This pool of under-employed, undereducated and relatively unskilled workers can either be mobilized through the popularization of anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and socialist consciousness. This can develop when workers struggle for their rights together and socialist propagandists connect the dots, and

workers take their individual struggles and turn them into class-wide concerns; **or**, the poor will be manipulated by the bosses, as they have been for many decades. Bosses who use media, pop culture, the church, the schools and the state to foster immigrant-bashing, race hatred, and gender bias, injecting this poison into the culture in order to separate poor white workers from poor black and brown folks. The bosses and their politicians even depend upon and employ business union bureaucrats to limit workers struggles (by industry, job, or bargaining unit) rather than allowing workers to make each struggle a class-wide battle. When you think of the revolving door of the corporate and government insiders, think of Andy Stern who moved from a sybaritic life off the SEIU membership to a cushy Obama campaign job and on to a fellowship at a Georgetown University think tank.

27% of blacks and 27.9% of Latinos, respectively, live below the official poverty level, a combined 24 million people. This is a conservatively low number presented by the government (and debunked [here](#).) Alongside these 24 million black and brown folks living in poverty are another 20 million poor white people (who are only 9% of the white population, but a numerically comparable body to the population of black and brown living in poverty.) This number is the human material underpinning the backward consciousness the bosses perpetuate in order to stoke race hatred and drive a wedge between workers. This is still manifested in the backward consciousness of white workers who blame black workers for ‘taking their jobs.’ And even among some ‘progressive’ blacks we find an equally nationalist, reactionary and insidious outcry against immigrants for the same reason. The Obama administration plays to this and sets new records for deportations (*see pg. 6*).

Even so, youth today are driven together by an increasingly inter-penetrated common urban culture. A common experience of fighting for justice on the job can create the subjective force capable of smashing the bosses’ racist, misogynist, and anti-immigrant ideology. Then workers can mobilize the forces of a united multi-racial working class to free ourselves collectively in our organizations, our work places and our communities from the disease of white supremacy, racial hatred, bigotry and prejudice, which only serves to separate and prevent workers from organizing together to defeat the bosses. To organize together To do this we must break out of the old model of union organizing

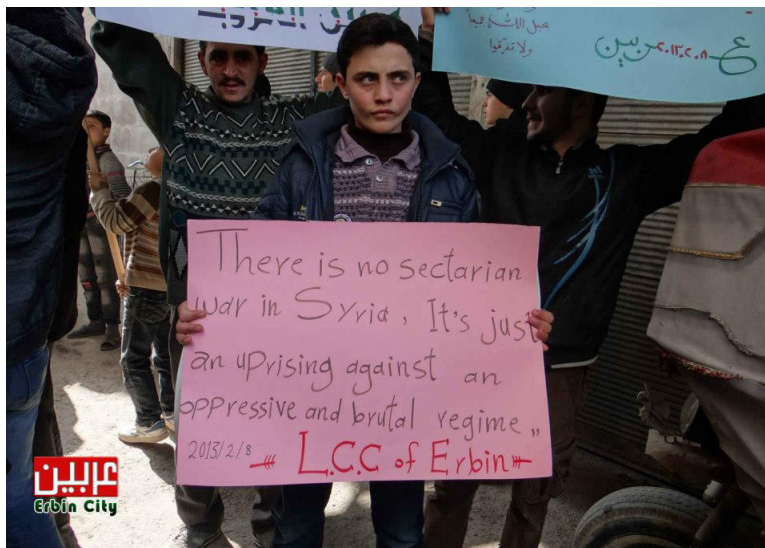
Cont. pg. 15

cont. from pg. 1, Syria

this Arab Revolution has taken is the bourgeois democratic revolution, since the workers in the Arab countries have first to overthrow the national bourgeoisies that act as the agents of imperialism in order to win even the most basic bourgeois democratic rights. This is because imperialism requires authoritarian local agents to enforce exploitative social relations in semi-colonies, with or without military intervention from the outside. This arrangement has given rise to many variations of crony capitalism, hybrid monarchic-capitalism, "radical nationalist" capitalism, and variants with bourgeois-democratic institutions. But mostly they act as mere fig leaves and their stability is derived from their ability to contain the masses and please the bankers.

Today this predatory, parasitic imperialism, targets the semi-colonies, coming at them from two fronts. Either established crony regimes continue to contain the masses and deliver booty to the (currently) dominant imperialist powers, or the masses upset the apple cart and chart an independent course. Right away of course, the "out" imperialist powers contest for economic hegemony with their imperialist rivals for control of the semi-colonial state, even as they face a revolutionary uprising. Where direct military re-colonization is not a viable option, the "out" imperialist power aims for "regime change" either with behind-the-scenes maneuvering or by propelling itself on the back of a popular uprising. The extent to which the popular uprising is or can be subordinated to imperialist forces is the point in contention.

The Syrian masses are fighting for their liberation against the two major imperialist blocs, their proxies and the ultra-reactionary theocrats. For the working class to assert itself, it requires its party and program to unite the masses to carry the revolution against all forces of exploitation and oppression. While the two imperialist camps and theocrats have the resources of world capital and two oil monarchies behind them, the Syrian masses have the wind of the international crisis of capitalism at their back. So it isn't just that the revolution happened in Syria as part of



the Arab Spring. The Syrian revolution is the most advanced part of the reawakening of the Arab national revolution that started as the Arab Spring against the austerity measures imposed by national bourgeois regimes on behalf of imperialism.....

#### [Build a United Front Defence of the Syrian Revolution!](#)<sup>43</sup>

"We call on the international working class to mobilize in defense of our class brothers and sisters in Syria and the Middle East against imperialism and their own ruling classes (and for those in the imperialist countries in the first place their own ruling class.) Adopting the proposals emerging from the advanced combat detachments in Libya, Tunisia, and Palestine, our united front must advocate for and build up self-defense pickets of the internationalist working class who initiate actions of solidarity, such as rallies, mass mobilizations, political strikes, and labor interventions in the distribution of military supplies.

In concrete terms an internationalist labor defense of the Syrian masses needs to materially confront imperialism in Syria. In Russia and China this means workers must unite to oppose their own government's support for Assad including taking labor actions to stop arms shipments to the regime. The key tasks of a united front in the US and EU is for workers to organize and provide military aid to the revolution. Without man portable surface to air missiles and other SAMs the masses are at the mercy of Assad's air force.

From the United States to Spain to South Africa to China and Syria, the working class is under all-out assault by capital. Build independent working class opposition to

the brutal dictatorship in Syria and to the imperialist paymasters who subject the masses to slaughter. Build this as the defense of our class as a whole.

Defend the Syrian masses! Form up local committees, link them nationally and internationally and take action to provide assistance to the secular and independent working class fighters."

- **Down with Geneva 2, imperialist scheme to rob the masses of every revolutionary gain!**
- **For organizations of workers councils and their class political independence from Syrian bourgeois political forces in the opposition, be they in country or exile.**
- **Only working class political independence will permit defense of the revolution against all its enemies of today and tomorrow.**
- **For Permanent Revolution!**
- **For a Revolutionary Socialist Federation of the Middle East!**

*Liaison Committee of Communists Integrating the RWG (Zim), CWG (A/NZ), CWG (USA), June 28, 2013*

*Read the entire 15 page article in our theoretical journal, Class Warrior:  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/150819876/For-Permanent-Revolution-in-Syria>*

cont. from pg. 14, *Slave Wages*

which limits the struggle to an individual job site or organizing drive. We must turn our unions into class struggle instruments with a program to unite the entire class.

At the Oakland Airport on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, workers took strike action against the franchises and fast food industry in their fight for union recognition. The issues are similar across the industry and we touched on them above. The issues are similar and we call on our readers to learn the local issues and details and to support their local picket-lines! We recommend to our readers and all franchise workers the program and the logic and the statements of the inter-union organizing committee (IUOC) (see page 11.) Revolutionary integration is not an intellectual exercise alone. Walking the picket lines is required.

## ***Brazil Enters the Fray***

### **YOUTH MUST UNITE WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS AND BUILD AN ALLIANCE WITH THE WORKING CLASS!**

*These analyses by other tendencies do not represent the understanding of the LCC. These statements are published to give our readers more reliable information than can be found in the bourgeois press and to express our more general solidarity with the militant Brazilian working class. First by the LOI do Brasil...*

LOI do Brazil O Socialista #94 Statement  
June 25<sup>th</sup>

The youth demonstrations which initially occurred in the cities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro and then spread to other cities is part of the social explosions that are rooted in the “background” of the deepening global economic crisis.

The debt and default of the families, the result of easy credit policy driven by the federal government which manipulated the inflationary index around 7%, the increasingly deteriorating public services (health, education), the increase of violence are all responsible for a growing dissatisfaction of the population; also fueling public fury is the daily news of corruption, overpricing public works and diversions of public money.

The detonator of the demonstrations was the increase in prices of public transportation. Moreover, the public transportation vehicles are in extremely poor condition which causes countless accidents every day. The fleets are small, which leads to overcrowding. In big cities, time spent in commuting between residence and place of work or study is extremely long. There are countless stories of workers who claim paulistanos (*residence of Sao Paulo*) lose 3 to 5 hours on public transportation.

The majority interest of young people in this struggle is related to the fact that they are suffering from an unemployment rate of 19.5% (Inter-Union Department of Social Studies and statistical), or are working in less skilled jobs and receive lower wages.

The demonstrations resulted in the closure of major avenues. The PM's (*Military Police in Brazil the PM's are the standard police a vestige of the days of the dictatorship ed note*)

violently repressed the protesters, throwing tear gas and stun grenades. Many journalists who accompanied the demonstrations were targeted with rubber bullets. Several reporters were hit in the eye.

In response to police repression, protesters made use of what ever they could find on the streets. Protesters argued they have a right to self defense saying when the imperialists are bombing cities and killing civilians, the windows of banks and the shop windows are “collateral damage.” As a matter of fact some MPs were filmed breaking the own vehicle to blame the protesters.

These demonstrations are not new. In Florianopolis (Santa Catarina) there was a very strong intense police repression which continued for several days.

The movement was originally directed by MPL (Movement for the Free Pass), which participates in social organizations and among student.

The statements of Alckmin (PSDB Social Democracy) and Haddad (PT Workers Party) were lyrics to the same tune. They said the fare adjustment was less than the rate of inflation; they defended the police action as necessary and within the constitutional frameworks (Heritage Preservation public and protecting private property; and guarantee of the right to come and go) and argued that “any surplus” would go to public services.

Both spokesmen well as the governor of Rio de Janeiro, Sergio Cabral (PMDB Democratic Movement Party) stated that “there was political infiltration” of minority groups. And Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Cardozo (PT) determined that the Federal Police would accompany the demonstrations, stating also that if any governor solicited for help, the National Guard could be activated.

The MPL, which initiated the call against the increase in transport fares, used social networks build the demonstrations. The demands for reduced fares were joined by others. This initial movement acquired a national character and others raised demands for defense of public health and education, against repression, against corruption, against PEC 37 (the project that aims to limit power of criminal police and federal civilian investigations, removing them, among other institutions, from the Ministerio Publico), against public spending in the works of the Football Cups (2013 and Confederations World, 2014) etc.

As the demonstrations occurred daily, the media and governments had to make statements to cover themselves, saying the demonstrations are part of the democratic regime and that it was a people's right to claim and leave the streets since the demonstrations were peaceful and respect the public organs and heritages, the seats of government and private property. But in truth the demonstrations are a reflection of the hatred of a sector of the youth against the institutions that represent the government. They are also growing in response to the police brutality and use of stun grenades, tear gas and pepper spray.

Most vandalism was related to the symbols of current consumption: phones and fancy TV's.

About the vandalism it is necessary to state that governments are fomenting them by allowing the degradation of the infrastructure, of the schools and hospitals; while not repairing the city streets. The biggest looters are the government and Legislature when they divert public funds to benefit the bourgeoisie and promote tax relief for their class. And these thieves are the ones who contract work by the governments and receive “allowances” to vote for the projects of interest to the Executive Branch.

### **The social composition of demonstrations and their limits**

Students of the middle class were the main protagonists. But in some cities, the proletariat joined the demonstrations. Mainly residents of the hills of the city of Rio de Janeiro, construction workers, Civil Taboao da Serra and Carapicuíba (Sao Paulo) and workers in metropolitan regions of Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre and Brasilia satellite cities. Despite the just repudiation by the youth against the corruption of governments and politicians, that sentiment was expressed in the form of a reactionary slogan, protesters demand that the flags of political parties be lowered, which left the demonstrations identified by default by the Brazilian flag and the national anthem. The reformist anti-party dynamic exacerbated nationalist tendencies and facilitated the infiltration of skinheads.

### **Directions**

The MPL called, but did not lead all the mobilizations. In the first week the demonstrations were spontaneous. The entry of other movements, such as the homeless,

expanded the causes and political vector of demonstrations, including adding in the list of demands of these movements. The union Federations, CUT (Central union of workers), Union Strength (Força Sindical), UGT (General Workers Union), CTB (Central of Workers of Brazil) and NCST (New Trade Union of Workers) published a note in which, repudiating the political repression, saying the demonstrations are absolutely legitimate and democratic and should be peaceful. However, they only cited the demands of reduction in transport fares and the question of urban mobility. All discussion of corruption, government spending with the elite, more money for education and health, PEC 37, etc., disappeared. Obviously government supporters can not cite these issues!

The president of Apeoesp in his first note supporting the demonstrations, so also cited the reduction of fares and stated that the issue of urban mobility, overcrowding transport is a result of the massive job creation by governments of Lula and Dilma!

The unions did not call on the workers to participate in demonstrations. On June 25, the unions CUT, UGT, Union Strength, CGTB, CTB, CSB and NCST, CSP-Conlutas, and MST met to discuss the demonstrations. It was decided that July 11 would be a National Day of Struggle with strikes and demonstrations.

The list of demands is: lowering tariffs and improving the quality of public transport, more investment in public health and education, end of auctions of oil resources, COLAs for pensions, reduction of working hours to 40 hours, against PL 4330 (which regulates outsourcing) and agrarian reform.

According to CUT: "The stoppages, strikes and demonstrations will have as their objective to unlock the agenda of the working class in Congress and in the offices of ministries and also build and drive the agenda that came from the streets in demonstrations throughout the country during recent days".

According to the PSTU (Moranoites): "We ask the Dilma government to meet the demands that have not been heard. The state and local governments should do the same, whether they are run by the PT, the PSDB, PMDB party or the some other, they are the ones responsible for the plight of our people." CUT wants to "hold" workers, tying them to parliamentary pressure, and Conlutas wants Dilma hear better. Again the PSTU capitulates to the policy of the CUT.

Their demands are placed within the frameworks of the bourgeois regime; they do not break with the capitalist system. And, for this reason, will not be achieved. So the youth should join the public workers and seek an alliance with the working class that advances the fight against the bourgeoisie and their governments.

## Brazil: Solidarity with the Popular Uprising!

*The following statement by the RCIT was endorsed and reproduced at El Mundo Socialista, an independent Trotskyist blog in Sao Paulo.*

<http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/brazil-solidarity-with-popular-uprising/>

Statement of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) and Blog El Mundo Socialista (Brazil)*, 19.6.2013, [www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net) and <http://elmundosocialista.blogspot.com.br>

1. Brazil has joined the chain of spontaneous popular uprisings against the brutal anti-democratic and anti-social policy of the capitalist ruling classes around the world. On 17<sup>th</sup> June alone, 250,000 people marched on the streets against price rises for public transport, corruption and police brutality. This shows once more that the deepening of the social and political contradictions in the revolutionary period of historic crisis of capitalism which opened in 2008 lead globally again and again to revolutionary explosions. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* and *El Mundo Socialista (EMS)* welcome and fully support these protests.

2. As so often in revolutionary events, a movement starts with what seems to be small incident. After the municipal government of São Paulo – led by the reformist "Workers Party" (PT) – increased the fares for public buses and subways by 6% or R\$0.20 (about \$0.10), the *Movimento Passe Livre (MPL)* organized protests. As it is so common in crisis-ridden capitalism, the ruling class and their reformist lackeys soon reacted with gross police brutality. In São Paulo in the night of 13<sup>th</sup> June, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets indiscriminately at peaceful demonstrators, journalists and passersby. Many demonstrators were injured, along with at least eight journalists, one of whom was blinded in one eye after being struck by a rubber bullet. Like in Turkey, this police brutality provoked a storm of mass protests across the whole country. On 18<sup>th</sup> June, mass demonstrations took not only place in the metropolises like Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Porto Alegre or Brasília but also in 30 smaller

cities.

3. While the price rise and the police brutality were the trigger for the social explosion, the popular uprising reveals the deep-seating revulsion amongst the people against the corrupt elite in business and government. The PT-led popular front governments of the former Brazilian president Lula and his successor Dilma Rousseff – which are in power since 2003 without interruption – governs the country in the service of the multinational corporations and the domestic elite. The country still has one of world-wide highest income inequalities. According to the United Nations about 27% of its urban populations are living in *favelas* (slums). Rio de Janeiro alone has more than 1,000 *favelas*! At the same time, the PT-led government spends billions of Dollars for the football World Cup in 2014 and the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

4. The policy of the Lula/Rousseff governments in the past 11 years shows once more that the reformist PT-bureaucracy is a lackey of the capitalist class. While it speaks in favor of social justice and hosted repeatedly the World Social Forum, while it controls the leaderships of most trade unions, it serves in reality the ruling class and acts as its agent in the ranks of the workers movement. It is high time, that the urban and rural workers and their organizations break with the reformist bureaucratic leaders and form a new party of the working class which – in opposite to the PT today – is independent of the bourgeoisie and which is based on a revolutionary program.

5. The popular uprising represents the biggest class struggle in Brazil since more than twenty years and therefore opens a new political phase with tremendous opportunities. However the movement is currently characterized by a number of political and organizational weaknesses which are not dissimilar to the *Occupy movement* in the USA or the *Indignados* in Spain:

\* a dominance by university students and middle class elements and at the same time a lack of involvement of the organized working class and the lower strata of the popular masses;

\* a lack of organization and a strong influence of petty-bourgeois libertarian ideologies against parties as such which of course is pretty understandable given the experience of the people with the corrupt parties of the bourgeois establishments like the PSDB, the PT etc.

\* the struggle, until now, has not spread to strikes in the enterprises but remains limited to the streets.

6. In order to overcome these weaknesses, revolutionaries call for *regular mass assemblies of the workers and oppressed in the enterprises, popular neighborhoods and favelas as well as in the educational institutions*. These assemblies should lead to the formation of *action committees*. These committees should elect delegates in order to build a *national coordination to lead the struggle effectively*.

7. Such action committees shall

*Cont. pg. 18*

cont. from pg. 17, Brazil

orientate to win over the trade union and other mass organizations of the workers and oppressed to join the struggle. No doubt, for this they need to fight against the bureaucratic leaderships of these mass organizations who have close relations with the PT-led popular front government. Such a campaign should be directed to prepare and organize a *general strike* against the anti-democratic and anti-social policy of the government.

8. To defend themselves against the brutal police force, the activists need to build *self-defense committees*. Such committees shall take the necessary measures to protect the movement against the thugs in uniform. In addition to this we welcome efforts of socialists and trade union activists to form blocs in order to defend themselves against attacks during the demonstrations by agent provocateurs as well as hard-core libertarian anti-party thugs.

9. Naturally such mobilizations – as important as they are – can at best temporary mitigate the attacks of the ruling capitalist class. But as long as the capitalists own and control the economy and the state apparatus, as long as the society is subordinated to the rule of profit, as long misery and crisis will be a permanent feature of the masses lives. The only lasting solution is the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the building of socialist society. The RCIT and EMS call workers and oppressed to organize for such a perspective and to fight for a *Workers Government supported by the poor peasants and the urban poor and based on popular councils and militias*.

10. The RCIT and EMS point out that the popular uprising in Brazil is not only caused by the system of global imperialism but is also part of the international wave of uprisings which started in the Arab world two years ago and which have spread to South Africa, Southern Europe, Turkey and now Latin America. The movement needs therefore an international orientation as well as an international program to fight against capitalism.

11. The popular Uprising in Brazil - as all the other revolutionary upheavals in the last years – has been marked by a dramatic crisis of leadership. The working class does not possess a revolutionary party which can show the way and organize the struggle in order to avoid the defeats by the ruling class. This was underlined once more in the recent teachers struggle in São Paulo which was sold out by the pro-PT trade union bureaucracy with the help of the centrist Morenoite PSTU and PSOL. It is urgent that revolutionaries in Brazil join forces on the basis of a revolutionary Action Program to form a first nucleus for a Bolshevik party. Such a nucleus should be based not only on a national but also an international program as well as organization. The RCIT and EMS are willing to support all serious efforts which represent serious steps in such a direction.

*\* Forward in building a new revolutionary workers party in Brazil as part of the new Revolutionary Workers International!*

## Bolivia: Breaking News:

May 13, 2013



*The LCC reprints the following from the Bolivian section of the FLTI. The LCC finds itself in substantial agreement with the analysis and program herein. We urge American workers to learn how the miners of Huanuni have many times been the revolutionary champions of the western hemisphere working class and its vanguard.*

Huanuni miners have come again to the fight and again they do it despite and against the leadership of the FSTMB and the COB that have broken the working and peasant Alliance in the streets to continue supporting the Pro-imperialist Government of Evo Morales.

This new breakthrough was anticipated by the struggle of the Colquiri miners and the last elections in the Miners Union of Huanuni, where the list of Trotskyists alongside the vanguard miners who presented ourselves under the program of the fourth international got 600 votes, expressing the willingness to combat of the mining proletariat.

Huanuni miners should call for the defeat of the bureaucracy of the COB and restore the working and peasant Alliance in the streets to return to the revolution expropriated by the popular front. We must re-found the COB like in 1952 with its workers militias and under the Pulacayo Theses, to expel the MNCs and defeat their Government. To conquer the conditions for victory, we must re-found Bolivian Trotskyism to carry the working class to victory.

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*For getting bread, a decent wage, a dignified retirement, jobs for every unoccupied hand, free and quality education and health for our children...*

*To give land to poor farmers...  
All of us are the TIPNIS!*

**It is urgent to break definitively with the Morales Government  
Down with the boards of negotiation of the COB and the Government! Out of the COB**

**the alleged “Working-class” Ministers, accomplices of the Government!**

**Huanuni miners must convene a CONGRESS OF RANK AND FILE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COB, ONE EVERY 100, OF WORKERS, POOR PEASANTS AND MILITANT STUDENTS to change the list of “demands of crumbs” of the bureaucracy for a real fighting plan and prepare a real revolutionary General Strike!**

**The worker-peasant Alliance must be welded again on the streets to defeat the Government and the infamous Pact between Morales and the fascist Media Luna!**

**To return to the path of the revolution and the anti-imperialist fighting of 2003-05 and bring them to victory**

From Monday, May 6 the leadership of the COB in a plenum of leaders has called for a general strike. However, this was not guaranteed to be successful: the factories are still operating normally; the vast majority of the proletariat of El Alto did not stop. The bureaucracy of the COR of El Alto did not adhere the strike. Health workers and students also did not take to the streets, only closed the UPEA and a march of the UMSA will be only complied by union officials and teachers. No sector of the rural poor in Bolivia has come to fight.

The collaborationist leadership of the COB is using the farce of general strike to pressure the Government and negotiate behind closed doors, without the knowledge of the working basis, the 72 points of the statement of the COB – a specification that no base worker knows - presented at the negotiating board with the Government of Morales and his ministers. At the negotiating board the COB and the Government Ministers already agreed the miserable wage increase of 8% generally, and a 20% for the national minimum wage, a “solution” that did not please any sector of the workers since this increase fails to meet even what the high inflation ate months ago; adding to this that basic food prices have again risen almost by 50%.

The bureaucracy of the COB has launched this “strike” to press the Government of Morales since they have failed to reach any agreement on the demand for a retirement of 8000 bolivianos for miners and 5000 bolivianos for the rest of the workers against the Government’s proposal of a retirement on

the basis of a 70% of the highest salaries.

In the midst of this situation of crisis and attacks of employers and the bourgeoisie to the entire workforce, and despite and against the policy of the collaborationist bureaucracy of the COB, most combative sectors have come to the fight, as the manufacturing plant workers that were mobilized (and now threaten to paralyze factories beginning on Wednesday, May 15), teachers and health workers who organized a blockade in Cochabamba and a rally in La Paz, to which the Government responded with repression and tear gas, tearing down such blockades by force. Once these were released the teachers in La Paz began a strike on Wednesday and shutting down schools. In Potosi the cooperative miners also blocked the roads and came out in a march with their own demands as well as the issue of retirement.

Then on Wednesday, May 8, the miners came out in Huanuni, armed with their dynamite they cut the route in Caihuasi and blew up the main bridge connecting Oruro with the path to the Department of Cochabamba. This heroic advance of the miners to blockade, was carried by the leadership of the Union – the POR – entirely independently of the mobilizations of the rest of the working class sectors: industrial workers, teachers, etc. and for this reason the Government received the miners with a harsh repression by the dogs of prey of Morales police, with rubber bullets, tear gas and taking prisoners more than 400 miners. At the same time miners and housewives took hostage a couple of policemen whom they used to negotiate the release of the imprisoned miners.

After returning to Huanuni, the miners carried out a general Assembly on Saturday 11, in which the 4700 miners decided to rally to the Capital city of La Paz to march together with the COB. Thus the Huanuni miners begin to respond to the deepening of the capitalist crisis expressing itself in the fall in the prices of minerals that threaten to hit openly this branch of production.

For its part, Morales's Government responds the request of the COB with brutal repression to the workers in struggle, deepening the attacks and throwing the costs of the crisis over the shoulders of the whole of the exploited in Bolivia. So these "Bolivarian" Governments answer the demands of the workers and peasants worse than the Government of the FTA as Piñera in Chile, or Humala in Peru: with repression, militarization, imprisonment and killings of the workers vanguard to guarantee to transnationals the plundering

of the natural resources that in Bolivia have been mortgaged by Morales for 20 years, as a guarantee of repayment of the debt through the sale of State bonds to the Big Banks and Wall Street.

### **COB collaborationist bureaucracy seeks to erode the energy of the workers and lead the vanguard of the mineworkers to a defeat**

The leadership of the COB has finally called an "intermission" in the strike, to continue negotiating with the Government and its ministers and meanwhile they have called the workers to stay in a "state of emergency" and "stay awake" -yielding to the conditions of the Government to lift any measure of pressure and strike to be able to resume the negotiation. The collaborationist bureaucracy, without losing time, sent their leaders to lift the blockades that the rural teachers were keeping. Meanwhile the miners in Huanuni who arrived in La Paz were left marching alone, without their bars of dynamite, separated from the teachers that were carried by the leadership of the POR to sporadic blockades at different times, a far cry from the miners. This perfidious policy of the leaderships of the COB and the SMTMH (the latter lead by the POR), is part of the plan of the collaborationist bureaucracy of the COB, while it is still negotiating with the Government; leading the miners to go on foot to La Paz, it separated them from the rest of the workers in order to wear out the energies and predisposition to the struggle of the whole Bolivian working class: miners, teachers, industrial workers and the rest of the workers in struggle.

What the collaborationist leadership of the COB is seeking is to defeat the mineworkers vanguard, taking them to fight in an uncoordinated way, systematically isolated from the rest of the workers, leaving them alone in the roadblocks to be a prey for the brutal repression of the Government, so that the miners draw the conclusion that the rest of the workers does not support them. So the bureaucrats think, not only to wear down the forces of the miners, leaving them alone before the brutal repression Government prepares for them, but they also seek to demoralize them by making them think that *"it is of no use to fight", "we did everything and not get anything.."*. In a word, the leaderships wants to get the miners prompt to only "give the fight through elections" entering the trap of the Worker's Party mounted by the collaborationist bureaucracy of the COB.

The tragedy of the mining proletariat is that the collaborationist bureaucracy of the COB has managed to dissolve the revolutionary Alliance of workers and poor peasants which had been welded during the revolutionary fighting in the 2003-05 and with which we defeated the Government of Goni and then Carlos Mesa; and in the same way they were able to break this revolutionary Alliance of workers and poor peasants which sought to be welded again in the strike of 2010 against the "gasolinazo" (brutal increase of the gasoline and fuel prices, N. T.) of Morales.

The tragedy of the working class and its vanguard the mineworkers is that in 2011 the poor farmers of the TIPNIS were marching with the industrial workers, the teachers, the health workers, etc. imposing a real revolutionary strike against the Government of Morales and the imperialist MNCs and their plan to build the highway for looting; the peasant and worker fighters marched shouting ***"Let's crush the transnationals!"*** and ***"all of us are the TIPNIS!"***. There the workers vanguard and poor farmers put at the order of the day the revolutionary fall of Morales's Government; but this perspective was thwarted by the leadership of the COB, the FSTMB and the POR, all of which imposed on the mineworkers submission and subordination to the Government of Morales taking as a truth his false promise of "nationalization of the mines", so preventing the mineworkers from being the vanguard of the whole of the exploited.

Today Huanuni miners come to the fight against the Government and for their demands - after years of subjugation-, albeit without raising the demands of the whole of the workers and peasants, when already the poor farmers have been taken out of the scene. Stop fighting divided! **Out of the COB the "worker" Ministers in the government, accomplices of Morales and his attacks on the whole of the working class!** Miners must raise the demands of our sisters and brothers in the countryside and of all the workers, in that way they will return to be the vanguard of the proletariat, welding again in the streets the revolutionary Alliance of workers and poor peasants, the only way to defeat the Government and their attacks, and conquering each of the demands of the workers and all sectors in struggle.

The class collaborationist bureaucracy and all the reformists as the POR, want to prevent the mineworkers and the rest of the workers retake shortly the lead of the poor

*Cont. pg. 20*

cont. from pg. 19, Bolivia

farmers who have begun a path of rupture with the Government of Morales. Both the collaborationist bureaucracy, sustained by the POR and other reformists (the electoral front called by Felipe Quispe and the PT of lots), try to channel the breaking of poor farmers with the Government towards an impotent “protest vote” against the Government, leading everything along the way to the electoral trap and the PT. This is the counter-revolutionary program planned from the “World Social Forum” to continue backing the Government of popular front of Morales.

Meanwhile the reformists as the LOR-CI /PTS claim that the brutal repression of Morales is explained by having them launched the shamefacedly electoral PT with the bureaucracy of the COB, so making believe it was a true fighting policy and strengthening the position of the bureaucracy and its mockery of PT. While the POR denunciation and ranting against the bureaucracy of the COB, do not explain that it was which defeated the two great general strikes against the Government and the MNCs, ensuring the mineworkers not to intervene through the subjugation of the Huanuni mineworkers to Morales’s Government from the 31st Congress of the FSTMB; Congress that the POR in its time congratulated as “radical and anti ruling party”. This is the role of the “popular front of combat”, put in place between the POR –which is still holding its old reformist politics of the Anti-imperialist United Front-, Solares, Quispe and former Trotskyists of the LOR-CI, LIT-CI, PO, etc., which have divided among themselves the tasks to support from the “left” the popular front of Morales.

**The miners of Huanuni must raise our demands together with those of the poor farmers. We must set up again the revolutionary Alliance of workers and poor peasants to defeat Morales’ government which is a servant of Wall Street and Morgan Bank**

**Congress of delegates from COB, one every 100 workers, militant students and poor peasants to vote a fight plan and revolutionary general strike**

The militant miners, factory workers and teachers must call to set up in Huanuni a **big Congress of rank and file delegates from COB, one every 100 workers, poor peasants and militant students**, to change the petitory of crumbs made by bureaucracy **for a real fight plan and to prepare a real revolutionary general strike conquering**

**workers and peasants alliance to defeat the government and the infamous pact of Morales and fascist Media Luna!**

**For the return of the 2003-2005 revolution** to be led to the triumph establishing a workers and peasants government of COB based on direct democracy and its militias, which is the only one that can guarantee all our demands! Whether proletarian revolution returns with its militias from COB in ’52 or there will be more defeats for the submission to the bourgeoisie, whether by the LP for the elections of the bureaucracy or with the RAF of the fake trotskysts called POR!

**Out with gringos! Expropriation of imperialist TNCs, without compensation and under worker control to conquer pensions, jobs, wages, health and education!** Decent pensions for all the workers! Wage increase for all workers, based in the cost of living and changing according to the inflation! Decent jobs for all, sliding scale of job and hours!

**Nor 30% neither 50%! Nationalization without compensation and under worker control of all natural sources!** Expropriation without compensation of landowners to give to all poor peasants of Bolivia! Expropriation of the banks without compensation to give cheap credits to the poor peasants!

**Down with the reactionary pact of Morales and fascist Media Luna!** Expropriation without compensation of landowners of the fascist oligarchy, to give the land to the poor peasants of Bolivia!

No more payment of the foreign debt and the bonus of Wall Street!

**Down with the electoral trap of LP of COB bureaucracy and the renegades of Trotskyism! We will defeat Morales in the streets as we did with Goni and Mesa, not with ballot boxes!**

Against the reformist policy of POR of calling their “police friends” to join the struggle of workers, we, the workers, must fight for the **Dissolution of the police!** Against the repression of the government and its hunt dogs of the police: **let’s set up Self-defense committees in the way to conquer workers and peasant militias** based on destroying the murderous officer caste and setting up **Rank and file Soldiers Committees.**

**For worker and popular courts** to judge and punish all the killers of workers and

poor peasants in October 2003. **Immediate freedom and end of prosecution** to all miners, teachers and factory workers prosecuted for Morales’ government! **End of prosecutions** of the oil workers of Las Heras! **Liberty to the prisoners of Ayo Ayo, Guantanamo and all political prisoners of the world!**

**Down with the capitalist restoration of Cuba** imposed by the Bolivarian Castroist bourgeoisie which is lackey of US imperialism!

In order to triumph, **we must fight as the miners of Marikana, Libya and the entire Northern Africa and Middle East!** We must re-take the path to the revolution of 2003-05 and this time lead to the triumph imposing a revolutionary government of COB, based on their workers and peasants militias! Only this government can break with imperialism and will carry on a real agrarian reform.

The working class and its vanguard must call their class brothers all over the continent and particularly to the miners of Peru, Chile and Argentina, so they can face the same class enemy together that over exploit us and plunder our nations: imperialism and TNCs. **For a continental fight against imperialism, TNCs and their lackeys “Bolivarian” and the FTA governments.** They are all guarantors of selling out our national sources to the imperialist voracity.

*Miner vanguard of Huanuni have been deepening the process of breaking with Morales’ government and they are now fighting again in the streets, with dynamite in their hands. This way of fighting that they retook was anticipated by the events in Colquiri and cost the life of Hector Choque in hands of the cooperativist bosses. It was also anticipated by the unions elections early this year, where miners voted for the Green List headed by leaders of POR and 600 miners voted for the program of Trotskyism expressed in the Blue List. However, miners and all workers don’t have a revolutionary internationalist leadership that can lead them to the victory, as they didn’t have this leadership in 2003/05. To win we must set up this revolutionary leadership, we must refound Trotskyism, the one of the 4<sup>th</sup> International, which in 1946 gave the miners the program to win and to take power expressed in the Pulacayo Thesis. This is the party that the working class needs and deserves as part of the fight to refound the 4<sup>th</sup> International of 1938.*

## International Labor Defense

### *An Injury to One is an Injury to All!* *For International Working Class Defense of All Class War Prisoners* *and Victims of Capitalist State Repression!*

The CWG stands for the non-sectarian working class defense of class war prisoners and all the oppressed based upon the old Wobbly principle that "An Injury to One is an Injury to All!" We place no faith in the capitalist courts, government agencies or labor boards to achieve justice. We call for the united International Working Class in alliance with the oppressed to come to the defense of all victims of capitalist state repression with class struggle methods. This means not only union resolutions but mass labor mobilizations and political strikes.



*New York City Labor International Day of Action to End Worker Deaths in wake of Bangladesh tragedies*

## 29,000 California Inmates Engage in Hunger Strike: Solidarity with the Strikers!

July 8th saw the beginnings of a hunger strike in California prisons against inhumane segregation and solitary confinement. Some inmates have been held in the Pelican Bay Security Housing Unit for decades. 29,000 inmates joined the hunger strike with some refusing work assignments. This is the largest hunger strike in the California history and the third in the last two years.

Implicitly, yet also increasingly, the protests aim closely at the policy of Gov. Brown and his administration. Gov. Brown has defied the federal government which told him to drastically reduce the overcrowded CA prisons yet, Brown has dragged his feet continuously and released state prisoners to local jails, creating the same characteristic in the county jails.

Prisoners suffer from valley fever in the central valley prisons and from pneumonia at Pelican Bay. Workers need to think of these prisoners as our sisters and brothers in the era of the snooper state. Incarceration could be in the future of any one of us.

Extended solitary confinement is recognized internationally as torture, harmful in intent and effect. It ought to be considered cruel and

## Free Russell Maroon Shoatz!

The US claims there are no political prisoners in American jails and is contradicted every day for the last 22 consecutive years by the solitary confinement of Russell Maroon Shoatz, former Black Panther, exemplary prisoner and revolutionary historian and theorist. The state correctional institution Mahanoy in Pennsylvania has recommended his release into the general population, but this has not occurred. We call on the workers movement to demand his immediate and unconditional release.

For years Shoatz maganimously called for activists to free Mumia before taking up his case. Now that Mumia is off death row, we say the workers movement can accept no delay in mobilizing for his immediate release. Shoatz was unjustly convicted for refusing to finger or even acknowledge any knowledge in the death of a cop during a community protest. Prisoners know Shoatz as an inspirational revolutionary figure. Despite immense difficulties, he has organized an eco-socialist movement and written a book, Maroon the Implacable, a collection of essays on revolutionary history, theory, strategy and tactics. A who's who of left intellectuals from Amiri Baraka to Hugo Blanco to Public Enemy co-founder Chuck D have taken up Maroon's cause.



<http://russellmaroonshoats.wordpress.com/>

*cont. from pg. 5, Egypt*

*everything to water down and constrain any Constituent Assembly. The only force that can convene it without restrictions, is the working class in power, a workers government, but for this to happen, the military regime has to be overthrown. The 17 million in the streets are not demanding a Constituent Assembly; in a sense, the fact they are there, means they have moved beyond capitalist parliament. Why should we hold the masses back, take them back to bourgeois parliament? The imperialist only hope is to offer a sham Assembly, maybe with some more concessions, but only enough to keep the system intact. The other option, if they can get away with it, is to divert the masses struggle into inter-group fighting and in this case try to wipe out a generation of fighters- but the masses are not defeated, they are on the march, the capitalists are on the defensive, why should we help them get out of their corner? We condemn also the 'Revolutionary Socialists', who just as they did just before Mubarak was overthrown, create illusions in the military, as if it is some sort of class neutral entity. The base of the military should be split from the generals.*

*It is clear we need a revolutionary working class party, but the precondition is a revolutionary programme. This leaflet is our contribution towards the programme in Egypt. If the working class takes power in Egypt, this will mark a giant historical step forward for the struggle for world Socialism. Let us define the programme around which the world revolutionary party is to be constructed.<sup>10</sup>*

## What coup, we ask...?

Coup d'etat? Who did they think was in power all this time?! Certainly not some MB "democracy!" This is where empiricists believe the BBC and why they think it is permissible to call for a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly (RCA) now at the same moment that they are calling for workers councils and militias and even a government of them! But we **only** called for an RCA **last year** when the democratic mass movement was under attack and retreating and demobilizing under the weight of the repression that was the prelude to the series of bourgeois elections, with the setup results we all know or ought to. The RCA is a defensive slogan for revolutionaries. Otherwise and at other times the call for a constituent assembly comes from other class forces and for their classes' reasons/interests. It doesn't happen otherwise. What does it get you? The enshrinement of, or the attempt

*Cont. pg. 23*

## Defending Abortion Rights

The Right needs a new champion and Governor Perry of Texas is looking to polish his Tea Party credentials for a 2016 presidential run by attacking women's rights to abortion. Perry's legislation was stalled by an occupation of the capitol chambers by Texan women whose pandemonium, during the final minutes of state Sen. Wendy Davis's (D) filibuster, flummoxed the proceedings. Like Walker in Wisconsin, who cuts his right wing credentials as the leading edge of big Capital's assault on the public workers unions, Perry promised to push through the restrictive legislation in a second special session. And indeed he did.

Wisconsin taught us that folding up the mass movement and depending on petitioning or dramatic legislative maneuvers only delays the inevitable. The way to defend democratic rights, be they workers rights to unions and collective bargaining or a woman's right to choose, is to mobilize mass actions, strikes, general and political strikes, that challenge the ability of the capitalist state to impose its reactionary policy.

The Democrats and mainstream bourgeois women's groups stake their hopes on another filibuster or an attempt to deny quorum but that strategy, like all legislative maneuvers, is a dead end as Wisconsin showed us. When the workers left the streets and picked up the clipboards for petitions to recall Walker, the fix was in and the Kochs had won. The same is the case with Texas. Once the struggle is mainstreamed into the legislative process the masses are demobilized and rights are plucked off or conceded in back room deals.

To defend a woman's right to choose in Texas and across the country it will take a renewal of a mass movement uniting women and labor in the streets. To unite with labor and mobilize the masses of working class women the movement needs to address key demands directly related to Women's right to choose. There is no freedom of choice without Free Quality Health Care For All which is a corollary to Free Abortion on Demand. Alongside the demands for subsidized maternity leave, free child care and free universal education these demands unite the workers and women in common struggle for the basics our families require. But the mainstream feminists tell us these demands are too extreme, that we have to focus on the minimum demand or the defensive struggle and to do that we can't make radical demands; that by cutting to the root of the problem we

antagonize our bourgeois "sisters" who are very happy maintaining the commodified health care, child care and education systems.

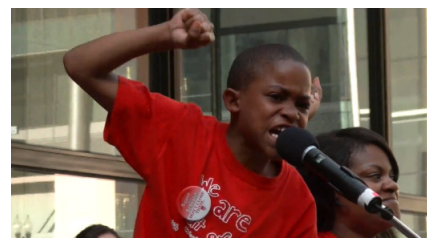
The right wing backlash today against both labor and women's rights is the consequence of decades of cross class coalition building, which betrays the social movements into the hands of the NGO's & CBO's and reduce your participation to making contributions (to outfits which mostly lobby), to signing petitions on Facebook or phone banking for Democrats. To defend and advance abortion rights, working class women will need to break their ties to the Democratic-Feminists, the NGO's & CBO's, and forge united action with the workers and the oppressed around a program that takes decision making out of the hands of the representatives of Capital (lobbyists, lawyers, judges and politicians) and puts it into the hands of workers and women themselves. This will take an independent working class women's movement, which fights for their liberation through the method of socialist revolution. This requires that women are the driving force in the formation of a revolutionary workers party and workers international that unites all the oppressed to fight for a workers government based on workers and popular councils.

## Chicago Public Schools Struggle:

The closure of 54 public schools by Chicago Public Schools (CPS) has begun with the announcement of the layoff of 663 teachers, teaching assistants, and aides. The Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), under the leadership of CORE (Caucus of Rank and File Educators), engaged in a dynamic, militant strike last fall against Democratic Party Mayor Rahm Emanuel's attacks on the public school system, cuts that disproportionately affect the Black and Brown communities and the working class. Caving in, the CTU union misleaders agreed to a concessionary contract. The International Socialist Organization (ISO) at the time, whose Jesse Sharkey is a CTU VP, CORE member, and strike leader, cynically claimed a victory in the strike and that

*"...The next battle will come soon, as Emanuel and the city--no doubt fired by the desire for revenge--unveil the final shape of their rumored plans to shut down or turn as many as 100 schools. The solidarity of September will have to be mobilized again for this next stage of the struggle."* But the time to fight was then and the time to revive the struggle is now, before these cuts and privatizations take effect.

***There are Militants.....***



*Militant fighter for workers rights and public education, 9-year old Asean Johnson.*

***.....and then there are the Labor-Faker Sellouts!***



*CORE CTU leadership sold a concessionary contract, demobilized the strike and diverted the fight against privatization of schools into electoralism.*

In the May 22, 2013 issue of *Socialist Worker*, the ISO has the gall to claim, *"...it's going to take nothing short of a mass, diverse and united grassroots movement to reclaim our schools."* The CORE leadership of CTU, of which ISO and Solidarity are members, ***HAD that united movement during the CTU strike in September of 2012.*** But at the very moment the strike was solid, very popular, and when the union was mobilized, the sellout CORE leadership of CTU ***dismantled the strike and pushed through a concessionary contract, abandoning working class struggle against school closings and the fight for public education.*** CTU President and CORE caucus member Karen Lewis even called it an "austerity contract." This popular strike could have galvanized a labor movement under attack and been a springboard for a fight for quality, free public education for all against the bi-partisan attacks on education. Instead the reformists of the ISO try to pawn it off as some kind of victory, in order to cover for their betrayal.

The CTU leadership did a certain amount of preparation for this strike, but without a perspective that there can be absolutely no reconciliation between labor and capital, these labor battles will continue to be sold out in the end by the reformist labor-fakers. Karen Lewis and CORE are now pushing for a voter registration campaign for future City Council and Mayoral races as the "next

level” of struggle. This is the bankrupt political methodology of the parasitic, pro-capitalist union bureaucracy that has dragged the labor movement to defeat after defeat. In virtually every labor struggle, the first thing these labor-fakers postulate are “talk shop” rallies with some kind of electoral strategy, which translates into “*we don’t need working class struggle, let’s elect ‘labor-friendly’ politicians (mostly Democrats).*” This was clearly the case in the Wisconsin Recall diversion, as well as in Michigan battle over “right to scab (work)”, where the AFL-CIO and Change to Win labor federation tops caved in. Today the ISO is right there with Karen Lewis and the rest of the union bureaucrats, dragging the workers into the dead-end of electoral politics (for the 2015 Chicago Mayoral race no less, a year and a half away):

*“A teacher--or another unionist or community activist--would be an ideal figure to lead an electoral challenge to Emanuel that’s independent of the Democratic Party... Such a project would be challenging, but the potential to revitalize the left and progressive movements is real. If Rahm is determined to be Mayor 1 Percent, then the 99 percent should have a candidate of their own.” (Socialist Worker, “Can teachers beat the Chicago bully again?” June 5, 2012)*

***The moment labor tops start talking electoral strategy is the moment you can consider a labor struggle on the greased ramp to defeat.***

**If you want to win we must mobilize for strike action! Shut Chicago down through a city-wide strike in defense of the CTU and public education!**

While ISO’er Sharkey on *Democracy Now* muses about raising taxes to fund CPS (On who? The working class? He doesn’t say.), Asean Johnson, a nine-year-old boy, third grade student at Marcus Garvey Elementary School in Chicago, outshone the labor-skates at a recent rally:

*“Rahm Emanuel thinks that we all are toys. He thinks he can just come into our schools and move all our kids all over gang lines and just say, ‘Oh, we can build a building right here. Let’s just take this school out. We don’t care about these kids.’ But it’s kids in there. They need—they need safety. Rahm Emanuel is not caring about our schools. He’s not caring about our safety. He only cares about his kids. He only care about what he needs. He do not care about nobody else but himself.*

*You should be investing in these schools, not closing them. You should be supporting these schools, not closing them. We shall not be moved today! We are going to City Hall. We’re deporting Rahm Emanuel. We are not toys. We are not going, not without a fight! Education is a right! That is why we have to fight! Education is a right! That is why we have to fight! Education is a right! That is why we have to fight!*”

***The workers movement needs thousands of militants like Asean Johnson, not the labor sellouts such as CORE.*** Were the Communist Workers Group (CWG) situated within the CTU we would be cohering worker militants in class struggle committees and caucuses in opposition to the sellout leadership of CORE, to mobilize the members allied with the working class communities for uncompromising political strike action pushed to the limit against the onslaught on public education; to extend a strike throughout the Chicago labor movement and nationally/internationally as a fight for quality, free public education for all! And to hell with any strike-breaking injunctions! Roll back the attacks on public education! For a class struggle leadership of our unions! Build a fighting workers/labor party to organize and lead these struggles and to fight for workers power! The wealth is there for quality, free education for all, but it is not going to be won by revising the tax codes or reallocating the municipal budgets. We need a workers government to nationalize major industry and finance capital without compensation and build a just society based on human needs.

*cont. from pg. 23, Egypt*

to put over, another bourgeois constitution and overlays of over-lording lawmakers and functionaries, all in the service of the same imperialists as before.



Against the more and more open threat of civil war by the medievalist theocrats and their martyrs’ utopia we must have the utmost clarity. Neither the “National Salvation Front” for national subjugation, nor the Muslim Brotherhood for whom there is no brotherhood but civil war and for whom one’s Muslim sister is a person of the cursed sex. Against all of them we counterpose the historical program of the working class for workers’ democracy, Arab national liberation and the completion and outstripping of democracy through the end of human exploitation. It is time for our program! Let’s recall that the Transitional Program tells us that “...the masses enter the revolutionary road with all their prejudices intact...” Their consciousness lags behind their actions, the products of necessity, and right there at the point of action is where the subjective factor belongs with no other slogans and program but that of our class.

## Correspondence on Egypt: *And a Brazilian Worker Writes...*

While we do NOT agree with our correspondent that “most” Syrian rebel fighters are Islamists, we otherwise find his most recent remarks on events in the Middle East and North Africa well put and thought through. This comes from El Mundo Socialista blog of 07/08/13, <http://elmundosocialista.blogspot.com.br/2013/07/reflexions-about-military-coup-in-egypt.html>

and we excerpt:

*“Any revolutionary knows that the bourgeois democracy is actually a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie on the proletariat. The use of the term “democracy” is nothing but a scam. In times of political crisis, mainly economic, the bourgeoisie is usually give up this facade of “democracy” and appeal to a Bonapartist regime or openly fascist.*

*The elections within the bourgeois democracy are a gigantic fraud. They are financed by the companies and corporations, i.e. the bourgeoisie finances its candidates, because an election campaign has very high financial costs. The bourgeoisie does not care if it has to finance candidates of pseudo-leftists like (PT-PSOL-in Brazil) or the PS in France or the so-called Popular Fronts, they know that once elected these pseudo lefties will rule for them, the bourgeoisie.”*

## What we Fight For

### We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of “nature” and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism’s wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

### We fight for Socialism.

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism –a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only North Korea survives as a degenerated workers state. We unconditionally defend the DPRK against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of a world socialist revolution.

### We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism’s continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual “freedom” and “equality”. It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

### We fight for a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeoisie and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers’ power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionize every barrier put in the path to their victorious revolution.

### We fight for Communism.

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made “fair” for all, that nature can be “conserved”, that socialism and communism are “dead”, we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution, the Third Communist International until 1924, and the revolutionary Fourth International up to its collapse into centrism, with the closing of the International Center. We fight to build a new Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

### Join us:

**Where overthrowing capitalism is all in a days work !!!**

#### Communist Workers Group – USA (CWG-US):

Email: [cwgclasswar@gmail.com](mailto:cwgclasswar@gmail.com)

Website: <http://cwgusa.wordpress.com/>

Class War (Paper of the CWG-US)

#### *Liaison Committee of Communists*

*Integrating the RWG (Zim), CWG (A/NZ), CWG (USA)*

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#### Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)

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Revolutionary Worker (Paper of RWG-Zimbabwe)

#### Communist Workers Group-New Zealand/Aotearoa (CWG-NZ)

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Websites: <http://redrave.blogspot.com>

<http://livingmarxism.wordpress.com>

Class Struggle (Paper of the CWG-NZ)



*Labor Donated*